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Valley Towing Wins Court Case

SEE PAGE 11



Owner of Valley Towing breaks silence on issue regarding Charlie Nesbitt and the lawsuit filed against Valley Towing. Nesbitt has been on a social media campaign to hurt Valley's Business.

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VALLEY PATRIOTS OF THE MONTH

John Gallant: The Battle of the Atlantic - Defeating the Nazis on the High Seas!

John Cuddy

VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Haverhill's John Gallant served in the Atlantic Theater of Operation during World War II on the U.S.S Hammann, DE-131. The story of John Gallant's World War II naval service and that of his ship's, are very much the same tale.

With only eight officers, and around two hundred enlisted sailors, all performing very different but equally important jobs, a World War II Destroyer Escort was simply an extension of the men who served on her.

Destroyer Escort 131 was an Edsall-class ship, built for the primary role of protecting U.S. Merchant Marine convoys

against German and Japanese air or submarine attacks. The ship was named after World War I Medal of Honor recipient Charles Hammann, a U.S. Navy enlisted Seaplane pilot.

To drive home to our readers, just how close John Gallant's naval war came to the Merrimack Valley he grew up in, I did a little research. After a quick search, I found numerous stories of German U-Boats being sunk by the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard off our New England shores. A recent one is the Maine's Press Herald article published in July of 2012 on divers finding the wreck of Germany's U-550, off Nantucket Island. The Nazi submarine was sunk after a joint attack by the U.S. Navy's USS Gandy, USS Joyce, and USS Peterson. But not before the U-550 successfully torpedoed the Merchant Marine tanker SS Pan Pennsylvania, sending 140,000 barrels of gasoline destined for Great Britain's war effort up in flames.

After construction and commissioning, the USS Hammann departed in June of 1942 for Bermuda to conduct post construction shakedown operations, afterwards returning to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The ship then sailed to Norfolk, Virginia, and began the first four picket duty passages across the Atlantic to Casablanca, Morocco. This was during the peak of German U Boat activity in the "Battle of the Atlantic". The ship made several attacks on German submarines, but U.S. Navy records contain no confirmed kills of Nazi submarines by the



Hammann.

Serving in the U.S. Navy as an Electrician's Mate First Class, John Gallant made no less than six more voyages successfully convoying to and from Europe, stopping at ports in Northern Ireland. Later the USS Hammann changed her convoy destination to Liverpool and made four more voyages protecting the vital flow of supplies for allied effort to win and end the war against the Germans. During one trip, the USS Hammann was called upon to aid one of the ships in her convoy, the

HERO: PAGE 24



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EDITORIAL: Let’s Stop Blaming Methuen Police for City’s Financial Problems

The City of Methuen is in a financial mess that has resulted in the mayor and city council having to borrow \$4M from the state.

That \$4M loan comes at a heavy price. That price is state control over the city’s finances in the form of either a fiscal overseer or a financial control board. It also comes with a price to the citizens of Methuen by way of cuts to police, fire, elder, and veteran’s services.

If you read the Eagle-Tribune every day you might get the impression that Methuen’s financial woes are because of greedy police officers making too much money, buying lavish SUVs, and “stacking” the salaries of their superior officers.

It’s not.

The fact is, Methuen is borrowing \$4M from the state because it was the school department - not police - who overspent their budget by \$4M. Over-

spending that calls for criminal penalties under state law.

Yet, the daily paper tripped over themselves day after day during this crisis to blame police, even publishing their salaries (and getting it wrong) while failing to publish the salaries of overpaid administrators in the School Department - many of whom are actually getting raises, even while the city is borrowing money, and cutting services to Methuen taxpayers.

What’s worse, in response to the bait and switch propaganda of the daily paper, the city council decided to put public safety at risk by cutting \$1.8M from the police budget. This will result in at least 25 patrolmen being laid off.

We believe it is the height of irresponsibility to reward the school department by giving them an additional \$4M after they overspent. Not to mention giving them even more money in the 2019 fiscal budget - all the while punishing the police and the public for the school’s misdeeds.

We agree that there needs to be a full criminal investigation into Methuen’s finances and a full forensic audit of all spending in Methuen going back at least five years.

But, we find it more than curious that State Rep. Linda Dean Campbell has called for an investigation of the police, but not the schools, and only after “consulting” with the mayor, city council, and the governor’s office.

We have to wonder why the daily paper, local, and state officials are working so hard to not only reward the schools for overspending, but also shielding them from any investigation when they are the sole reason the City of Methuen is in this mess to begin with.

The whole situation smells from the top down, including Governor Baker’s office which has changed their story on fiscal oversight more than once.

We know deals were made to pass last year’s Methuen city budget, and given the illogical behavior of just about everyone involved we are starting to believe deals are still being made.

It has to stop. Or Methuen will quickly become like Lawrence.

As for the Methuen Police Superior Officers’ Union, you can hardly blame them for negotiating the best deal they could for their officers.

If anyone is to blame for inflated police salaries, it’s the prior Methuen City Council (which includes Mayor Jajuga who was on that council) for either knowing what was in that contract when they voted on it - or worse - not knowing because they didn’t bother to do their jobs and read the contract before giving their approval.



The History of The Saint Alfio Society and Feast of the 3 Saints

Fake News? You Bet and Censorship Too!

Aliana Brodmann von Richthofen
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

HOW LONG UNTIL BOOKS ARE BURNED HERE?

George Orwell: “Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed: everything else is public relations.”

In our times of phony communication overdrive, increased divisiveness and contentious discourse amid interest driven media and reports favoring powerful corporations disguised as news, writers like myself, who are committed to truth rely on libraries and librarians as sources for accurate information. Allies in our perpetual quest for free access to reliable facts and figures.

Not that I am naïve to reality. I know that libraries too are funded by individuals and institutions who set the standard for what they carry. It was after all the top echelon of Germany’s intellectual elite that began censoring books at the behest of the German P.E.N. (Poets, Essayists, Novelists) Center, and in 1933 started the infamous book burnings of works that the Nazi party members considered “un-German” in spirit. Works by some of the most revered German intellectuals such as Brecht, Einstein, Freud, Mann and Remarque, among many other prominent cultural figures.

It was soon thereafter that the famous words by the expatriate German Jewish poet Heinrich Heine, exiled to France, penned more than a hundred years earlier: “Where they burn books they will burn people too” became all too true.

But I was assuming, that in our more enlightened times (how often do we hear: one should learn from the Holocaust?)

clearly, what we should know is that the raping and murdering of innocents evolved from censoring, pillaging and robbing.

All this crossed my mind during my recent telephone conversation with the librarian at the Wellesley Free Library in charge of periodicals. It followed requests by patrons for an inclusion of a greater Boston monthly paper in the Library’s Reading Room and made me realize, how close we actually are to the spirit of pre-World War II fascism in Germany, right here in Wellesley. Home of the same named College for women, Babson and public schools considered to belong to the nation’s finest institutions of learning.

The patrons, who had repeatedly requested a copy of The Valley Patriot, a monthly, in the Periodicals Room, found it daunting that a new “café-like space” and an “automated Material Handler” were under consideration by the Library, when a simple request for more varied reading material in form of this monthly paper was being denied.

Clearly there were plenty of other café-like spaces in town for “sipping coffee” and whether an “automated Material Handler” was absolutely necessary could be a matter of opinion. But according to Wikipedia the purpose of a library is to hold “books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, Discs, e-books, audiobooks, databases,” and other informative materials for research and reading. These days an absolute necessity for those attempting to sort out the facts from the fake, with the influx of biased and inaccurate reporting

The history of the Saints Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino Society goes back to the early years of the twentieth century, Est.1921, and is as much a part of immigrant history as it is of the history of Lawrence, Massachusetts.

The Saints that make up the name of the Society are three brothers martyred in the third century for refusing to denounce their Christian faith. During their lifetime and even after their death, numerous miracles occurred which are attributed to the intercession of the Three Saints, even today. Since the 1500s, the people of Trecastagni, Sicily have held a grand Festa each May 10th in honor of the Three Saints.

During the early part of the 20th century, immigrants from this region of Sicily came to the Merrimack Valley seeking employment in the numerous textile mills throughout the area.

Often, working conditions were unsafe, medical insurance was not provided and there was no social welfare net for these employees and their families.

To help each other, these Sicilian im-

migrants formed a mutual benefit organization, to provide medical needs, a death benefit and offer food assistance where needed. In short, the immigrants created their own social security.

But there was more than just a mutual benefit charter—these immigrants from Trecastagni and the surrounding towns in Sicily that settled in Lawrence brought their faith and the tradition of the Feast with them. The organization was created in honor of the Three Saints of Trecastagni: Società di Mutuo Soccorso – Santi Martiri Alfio, Filadelfo & Cirino.

The first Feast was held in 1923 and has been an annual event in Lawrence now in its 95th year. Since then, the Saints Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino Society has maintained the tradition of honoring the Three Saints in the same manner as the original Festa in Trecastagni, Sicily.

Today, the Society focuses not only on its members, but outward into the community, providing scholarships for local college-bound seniors, donating to area charities and offering assistance throughout the Merrimack Valley.

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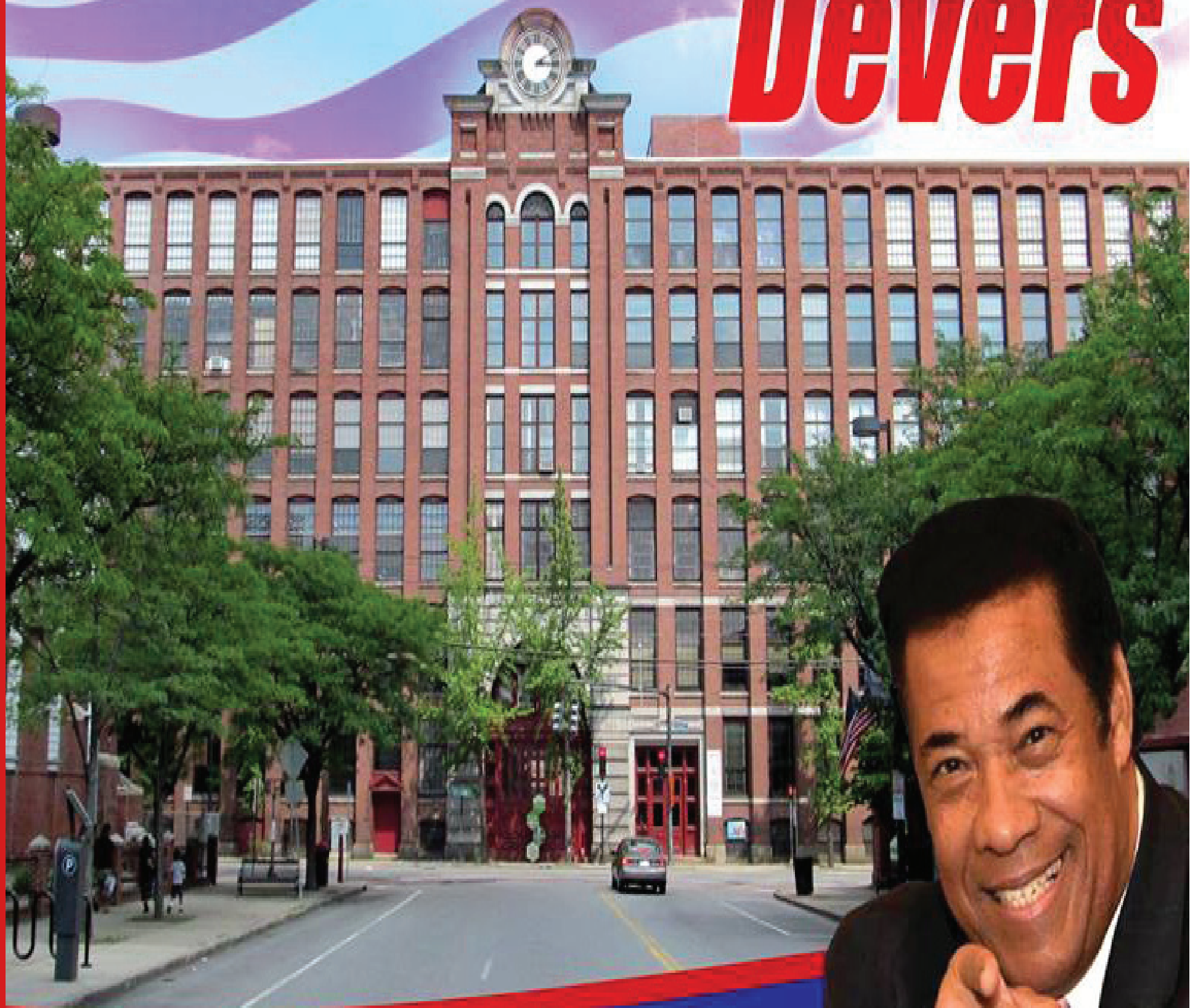
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IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR KATY IVES

Fiscal Year 2018 State Budget Update

Senator Katy Ives
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The Massachusetts Legislature recently passed a \$41.88 billion state budget for FY19 and directs a \$367 million deposit into the Stabilization Fund, to ensure our state’s fiscal health and protect Massachusetts’ future. It also prioritizes our cities and towns, education, and those most in need of help and features no new taxes or fees.

In recognition of the state’s strong support for education, the Legislature approved an unprecedented \$4.9 billion in Chapter 70 education funding, which represents an increase of 3.4 percent over the previous fiscal year and increases funding for teacher health care costs by \$39 million. A priority of mine, education funding, also features \$319.4 million to fund the Special Education Circuit Breaker, \$90 million for Charter School Reimbursement, \$68.9 million for Regional School Transportation and \$5 million to fund the Preschool Partnership Initiative.

The budget also provides \$2.5 million for continued support for early childhood mental health consultation services and \$20 million to support high-quality Early Education and Care (EEC) programs; the budget also provides \$10 million to create an EEC workforce development initiative to tie professional development and higher education opportunities more closely to our community colleges.

As part of an ongoing effort to ensure access to safe and affordable housing for the most vulnerable Massachusetts residents, the budget provides \$100 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP), \$32 million for the HomeBASE program, \$20 million for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) Program, and establishes a \$5 million rapid homeless rehousing program.

To address the ongoing opioid epidemic, the budget includes \$142 million for the Bureau of Substance Addition Services to create five recovery centers in Massachusetts. The budget features \$5 million to support community-based treatment program, \$4.9 million for step-

down recovery services, and \$1 million to provide increased access to Narcan to first responders.

The budget sets aside funds to establish monitoring for hiring, promotion, and preferential treatment occurring within the State Police.

And in addition:

- Provides clear statutory authority to Juvenile Courts to protect unaccompanied immigrant youth aged 19 and 20 from deportation, continuing our long-standing value of protecting the children in our communities
 - Creates an annual internal audit and the requirement of annual accreditation.
 - Establishes a commission to look at funding for Sheriff departments, with an eye towards encouraging the use of best practices and reigning in rising costs, with a particular emphasis on recidivism reduction
 - Introduces a pilot program to promote employment in state contracts with persons with disabilities to expand access to participation in the economy.
 - Requires the Administration to acknowledge and sometimes waive the unique tax burden on small businesses with high-turnover workforces that are the hardest hit by the Employer Medical Assistance Contribution (EMAC) Supplement assessment.
 - Creates an Office of Health Equity to tackle social determinants of health and environmental justice to improve health outcomes among people of color.
 - Expands access to Non-profits working with the state to state discounted Naloxone, helping to make it more available at a lower cost as we continue to combat the opioid crisis
 - Establishes a permanent Tax Expenditure Unit in Department of Revenue that would examine the usefulness of every tax credit on an ongoing basis – to ensure our tax payers are receiving worthwhile returns on their investments.
- Also, in the budget were important local priorities that I filed and secured, totaling \$800,000:
- \$10,000 for uniforms at the Haverhill Fire Department

BUDGET: PAGE 29

“WEATHER 101” WITH AL!

Al Kaprielian
VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

Welcome to August and the last full month of summer.

It is amazing how fast July went by and now we are headed towards the latter part of the summer. July was a hot month. The first week of July was very hot with daytime high temperatures above 90 degrees.

A heat wave occurred in many areas, including Boston, Manchester NH and Concord NH. A heat wave occurs when the high temperature reaches 90 degrees or higher for three or more consecutive days. Boston averaged 2.8 degrees above normal for July.

Manchester NH averaged 3.9 degrees above normal for July and Concord NH averaged 3.1 degrees above normal. The reason for the hot weather was the strengthening of the Bermuda High Pressure System off the east coast.

This upper level HIGH PRESHA! system pushed the jet stream north of our area and put us on the south side which is the hot side of the jet stream. July also turned out to be a wet month with many areas averaging over one inch of rain for the month making for above normal rainfall.

Some of the rain in July was accompanied by thunderstorms, some of which became severe. Some severe thunderstorms occurred during the early morning hours of July 26th. The severe storms generated two EF-1 tornadoes to occur in Worcester county. These tornadoes occurred after midnight during the early morning hours of July 26th. This timing is unusual for tornado development because of the absence of the heating caused by the sun.

After these tornadoes occurred, a cold front moved through Saturday night into Sunday morning July 28th into the 29th. This cold front brought an end to the oppressive humidity from the prior week

when dew points were in the low-mid 70s. This is truly tropical air typical of Florida and the southern states. The cold front moved out to sea south of New England Sunday morning July 29th lowering the humidity and making for more comfortable conditions.

The dew points dropped on Sunday July 29th making for less humid conditions. July would end on a quiet note with some very warm temperatures with tolerable humidity. Towards the last few days of July it looked like the Bermuda High Pressure System in the Atlantic Ocean would regain strength and start moving west towards the east coast and New England. This would bring a return to oppressive humidity as August begins.

During August we will continue to lose daylight as the days continue to shorten. This will cause the average daily high temperatures to fall by the end of the month.

The ocean temperatures are also warmer in August compared to June and July. This will cause peak hurricane season from mid-August to mid-September. This is the time period where maximum hurricanes can form over ocean waters. Hurricanes form over ocean waters where the temperatures are above 80 degrees.

Time will tell how active this year’s hurricane season will be. During this last full month of summer remember drink plenty of water so you do not get dehydrated. If you are outside and hear thunder, go indoors. Seek shelter immediately and stay away from windows. Stay away from trees during thunderstorms.

Also remember do not drive your car through flooded roads. Stay away from downed power lines which can occur from damaging winds due to severe thunderstorms. Next month we will recap the weather for August and take a look at this year’s hurricane season. Stay safe and enjoy the last full month of the summer of 2018!!

FAKE NEWS: FROM 2

by various print-, internet and other media outlets.

All the more disconcerting was the response given to me upon a repeat call to Anna Dorste, the Periodicals Acquisitions Librarian, in response to this request for the more centrist monthly than most of the other papers offered in the Periodicals Room.

After navigating Dorste’s first argument, that “the library’s vendor (Revistas) cannot provide it” with the binding offer to secure delivery, she stated: “financial limitations.” These were offered to be covered with a donation to the Library for the cost of the subscription to the paper. Nevertheless, she told me, we would have to wait until the beginning of the new fiscal year in July 2018 and then she still couldn’t promise the subscription as it was up to her to make the selections.

Upon my inquiry, which criteria she used for her decision, she answered: “Depending on how many people would be reading it.”

Perplexed I asked, how that would be determined prior to the paper actually being in the Periodicals Room?

Dorste: “It can’t be. Only once it’s available.”

Ok, I thought, incredulously. This conversation had now totally peaked my curiosity: “So how do you determine how often a paper is read?”

Dorste: “When readers leave it out on the table.”

I had to remind myself that I was talking to a librarian, a person of the type I considered informed and educated, perhaps even schooled in logic: “Aren’t readers

supposed to put non-circulatory reading materials back where they got them?” I asked.

Dorste: “Yes,” was her curt answer. She sounded hostile, a frequent response to my observing – or asking too much, I registered.

“So you can only determine that a paper has been read if someone is sloppy or careless enough to leave it out?”

Dorste: “Yes.”

This then was about her deliberately obstructing access to information in my community, the opposite of a library’s stated mission in a “free” society.

“Not a very reliable method for an accurate assessment. What do you say?” I asked.

Dorste: “Right.”

This conversation had gotten tedious to say the least. So, I finally concluded: “Let’s then just cut to the chase, you don’t want The Valley Patriot in the Periodicals Room because you are actually limiting the information Wellesley Free Library Patrons should read. That’s censorship, isn’t it?”

She didn’t answer. The silence was deafening. I had hit the proverbial nail on the head.

These days it’s politically incorrect to call a “spade a spade.” But this spade is shoveling its own grave and that for us all. What exactly does the word “free” mean in Wellesley Free Library? Where freedom of the written word is banned it will be burned, and so will people not fitting into some overall trendy scheme. In some places it’s already happening again.

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Franklyn Veloz
President

Cell: 978.457.5547
Off: 978.984.7171
Fax: 978.984.5573

VELOZ Auto Group

17 Massachusetts Ave.
North Andover, MA
01845

WWW.VELOZAUTO.COM
franklyn@velozauto.com

Shootings, Stabbings, 2 Nights of Violence Shatters Peaceful Summer in Lawrence

It's been a historically peaceful summer in Lawrence with violent crime down nearly 50% and murders (so far) this year down by 2/3.

The current murder count in Lawrence is three.

Two of those murders (the Hampshire St. execution on June 6th and the 550 Broadway shooting on May 2nd) have not been solved.

The one murder that was solved was the brutal and savage stabbing on Doyle Street where the killer was still on the scene when police arrived.

Last year at this time there were nine murders in the city and daily calls of shots fired with a dozen people each month showing up at the hospital with gunshot wounds.

So far this summer there have been very few gunshot calls, as a peaceful calm seemed to settle over Lawrence though most of May, June and July.

All of that changed late last month with several police calls of "shots fired" and a surprising uptick in the number of police calls of violence.

SHOOTING, BEATING, KNIFING IN GANG TERRITORY

On Thursday night July 26th, a man on Alder and Juniper St. was shot. The initial call that went over the police scanner was that he was down on the ground, but seconds later the police dispatcher informed officers on their way to the scene that the victim got up and ran towards Lawrence Street.

After an extensive search he was later found without any gunshot wounds, but shell casings were found at the scene.

Later the same night, two more calls for shots fired were dispatched in the same neighborhood but no victims were found.

On Friday night July 27th, a man was beaten with a baseball bat and stabbed with a knife on Juniper Street, just feet from Thursday night's shooting.

The victim was brought to Lawrence General hospital, his condition was not released. The Alder and Juniper Street neighborhood is the center of gang territory in Lawrence.

VIOLENCE SPILLS INTO METHUEN

While violence is on the decline in Lawrence, criminals have crossed the border into Methuen and Haverhill spiking the violent crime numbers in those communities.

Minutes after that violent assault on Juniper St. in Lawrence, a car to car drive by shooting occurred just a few feet over the Lawrence line in Methuen on Tenney Street just a few minutes before midnight.

All units of the Methuen police were sent to the scene and Tenney St. was shut down.



Sgt. McMenamon and on-duty detectives also responded finding five .40 caliber shell casings on Center Street in front of Polanco Market.

A preliminary investigation determined based on evidence found at the scene, witnesses, and video of the incident showed two vehicles traveling south on Tenney St., met side by side in the area of 65 Tenney St.

The vehicles were a light colored sedan and a dark colored sedan. Some report the light car as a Nissan Altima, some witnesses described it as an Acura.

The dark colored car was described as a Camaro or a Maxima, or possibly a Charger.

After a short time the vehicles continued south on Tenney St. as the light colored car accelerated and passed the dark car. As it came to the intersection of Center and Tenney St. a male leaned out the window of the light colored car and began to fire at the dark colored car.

Police received video from Center St. and Tenney St. which captured some of the incident and supported witness statements.

As a result of the suspect leaning out of the window and firing from the light colored car, a bullet entered the southern wall of a home at 65 Tenney St.

The bullet entered the living space of the residence and stopped on the floor, a short distance from where a 5 year old child was sleeping.

The bullet was recovered by state police and casings were found.

Massachusetts State Police photographed the scene and are assisting in the investigation.

3AM - METHUEN SHOOTING JUST OVER THE LAWRENCE LINE

On the other side of Methuen (East Methuen), officers responded to the area of Olive St. and Boston St. for a call of several loud noises that woke up neighbors.

Upon arrival police say they discovered two vehicles with bullet holes parked on Olive St. near the intersection of Boston St. Officers canvassed both streets and spoke with neighbors, nobody was injured.

Police say that a 2011 Honda Civic owned by Luis Gonzalez was the intended target vehicle. The vehicle of a second victim, Woldine Moise of Methuen, was also struck once by a bullet. Police believe that the shooter left the area via Boston St. heading towards Vermont St.

While searching the area police discovered two shell casings and a loaded round

on the ground near the damaged vehicles on Olive Street.

Not far from that live round, police discovered a black plastic garbage bag containing several more empty shell casings in front of 91 Boston Street.

Shell casings recovered were .223 rifle rounds.

Police say that the plastic bag had a hole in it saying it appears the suspects fired the weapon from inside the bag.

Officer Getchell was called to the scene with his canine "Buddy" and did an area search. Nothing further was found.



SHOTS FIRED NEAR MALAYAS IN LAWRENCE AS POLICE LOOK ON

Shortly after the 2am last call for Lawrence nightclubs Saturday morning July 28th, The Valley Patriot was stationed at the corners of Mill and Essex Streets, and Newbury and Essex where half a dozen Lawrence cops were conducting what they call "impact patrol" to stem the pattern of fights and violence of last call patrons all leaving the night clubs at the same time.

That's when a black car drove past police and fired at the crowd leaving Malayas nightclub on Newbury and Methuen Sts.

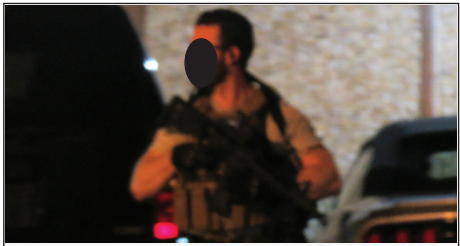
Police chased a dark colored vehicle down Methuen Street to Union St. and into South Lawrence where the shooter made his way to Rt. 495 South and was able to get away.

Police found no shell casings as is usually the case when a gun is fired from inside a vehicle. Surprisingly nobody was hurt.

WHY IS VIOLENT CRIME DOWN SO MUCH IN LAWRENCE

Love him or hate him President Trump has sent an alphabet soup of federal law enforcement agencies into the city to "Drain the Swamp".

Since last August, undercover agents from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), The U.S. Marshalls, the FBI, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the ATF (Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms), and dozen other state and fed-



Undercover DEA Agent with an M4 on Lawrence St. searching for a known gang member and gun dealer.

eral agencies have arrested and deported hundreds of criminals, both here legally and illegally.

In any community there are always a small number of people who commit the majority of crimes, and the numbers show that in Lawrence a great many of those criminals have been removed, making Lawrence safer (though not safe) than it has been in years.

Add to that a new tone by Chief Roy Vasque who is aggressively engaging in a zero tolerance policy on every crime, large or small.

Vasque told me when he appeared on the Paying Attention Podcast last month that tasking his officers with making arrests for minor crimes that would have previously resulted in a warning. Letting those incidents go would usually result in further problems later on.

"What you're seeing there with aggravated assaults (as one example) is that we have a lot of new officers who are basically going out and making arrests where before people wouldn't have been charged. Before, people would be sent on their way after a fight and now we are making arrests and charging more people."

Vasque said that when "quality of life issues are taken more seriously it tends to prevent bigger crimes from occurring."

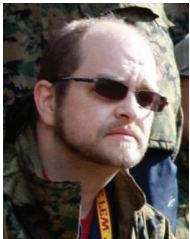
He cited how the city is now handling traffic violations and calls about loud music and house parties, saying that the city now makes more vehicle stops and when responding to loud parties they log the name of the person who is holding the party, give an official warning and if the police have to go back to that address for the same infraction they are given a hefty fine.

The rest of the media has ignored the progress in Lawrence and the massive reduction in stolen cars, rapes and murders, preferring to flood the city with their satellite trucks the minute a major crime takes place and then fleeing back to Boston when calm returns to the city.

We, here at The Valley Patriot are committed to providing REAL news and a complete picture of what is really going on in Lawrence when there is a violent incident.

But, we also believe that we have a responsibility to report when things start to improve in the city, rather than exploiting individual incidents of violence to always paint a negative picture of Lawrence as a bad and dangerous city.

Follow me on my Facebook page each night as I go live and watch what really goes on in Lawrence and see for yourself how the media lies about what is and what is not going on in the Mill City.



Tom Duggan is publisher of The Valley Patriot, hosts the Paying Attention Podcast, is an author, former Lawrence School Committeeman, and a 1990 police survivor. Subscribe to his

YouTube Channel for live news and video. You can E-mail your comments to valleyepatriot@aol.com

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GLCAC’s Head Start Enrolling Now for Fall

Students Ages 15 months to 5 Years Accepted at Five Locations -LAWRENCE – The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. is accepting Head Start students for the 2018-19 school year. The program serves children ages 15 months – 5 years old from Lawrence, Methuen, Andover and North Andover.

Head Start is one of three preschool options offered by the GLCAC that give parents affordable childcare, so they can work or complete their education. GLCAC’s preschool programs provide quality education with nurturing teachers, nutritious meals and snacks, health checks, family services, and creative arts.

“We know early education is critically important to children and families, especially those in lower income brackets. Our programs are affordable and give parents a safe place for their children to start learning while they go to work or school. Without our programs, these parents could not afford childcare and so would have to stay at home without the opportunity to support their family,” said Evelyn Friedman, Executive Director of the GLCAC.

Head Start has five area locations: 305 Essex St., 136 Water St., 62 Park St. and 246 Andover St., all in Lawrence, and 24 Gill Ave. in Methuen. School bus transportation is available for most of the Greater Lawrence service area.

For more information about Head Start and other early childhood education services provided by GLCAC, call (978) 681-4920 or visit www.glcac.org.

GLCAC is a multi-faceted social services agency that assisted 32,648 individuals in 2017 through a range of programs including early childhood education, fuel assistance, WIC nutrition assistance, immigration services, lead poisoning prevention, child abuse prevention, English-language lessons, and consumer protection.



High School Students in Lawrence, MA Rank #1 in Workplace Performance for the 10th Time

Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School Ranked Against 32 Fully Enrolled High Schools (11,522 Students) Across the United States

(Lawrence, MA) – Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School students have ranked #1 out of 32 fully enrolled Cristo Rey Network high schools (11,522 students) in this year’s performance evaluation of the network’s Corporate Work Study Program (CWSP), a reputable standing that the school has earned 10 out of 12 times. NDCR students are making monumental impressions upon 75 work locations throughout Merrimack Valley, Route 93/128 corridors and Southern NH.

Part of this achievement stems from having a well-founded training program roped in the fundamentals of workplace success. Incoming freshmen students are required to attend a two-week long summer training program consisting of over 40 workplace preparedness courses. Presentations ranging from business writing to workplace safety pave the way for students to thrive in an otherwise seemingly daunting Corporate America. Training began this week for the Class of 2022.

At Notre Dame Cristo Rey, students are on track to higher education. With a 100% college acceptance rate into four-year colleges and universities, and a college graduation rate of over 62% compared to a national average of 15% within its same demographic, the CWSP allows students the opportunity to receive a private, college prep education when they would not otherwise be able to afford it. The school transports all students to work one day a week so that they may earn 60% of their tuition by working in entry-level office positions. After the high school raises funds for additional tuition assistance and financial aid, students and their families pay only 10% of the cost to attend the high school.

As the statistics for the 2017-2018 school year affirm that Notre Dame Cristo Rey is on track with its mission, the work towards transforming another generation of student workers begins.

Andover Police Arrest Man for Cocaine Trafficking, Using Stolen Identity

ANDOVER — Chief Patrick Keefe reports that the Andover Police Department arrested a man last week on drug-related charges and for using a stolen identity.

EUDIS AMAURIS PEREZ Pimental, AGE 34, OF LAWRENCE, is charged with: Distribution of a Class A Substance (Heroin), Trafficking a Class B Substance (Cocaine), Giving a False Name During Booking, False Application for Motor Vehicle License, False Application for a Motor Vehicle Registration

On Tuesday, July 31, Andover Police detectives, in conjunction with the DEA Cross Borders Initiative Task Force, were conducting an investigation into suspected drug dealing in the Shawsheen Heights neighborhood after receiving numerous complaints of drug activity.

Through a three-month long investigation, undercover officers were able to make contact with Pimental and conduct a controlled drug transaction. Pimental was subsequently stopped in his vehicle and placed under arrest. Officers seized 28 grams of suspected cocaine and a small amount of suspected heroin.

At the time of his arrest, Pimental provided a Massachusetts driver’s license that identified him as Juan Carlos Morrera, as well as a motor vehicle registration that came back to the name Morrera.

Upon further investigation, detectives discovered the person in custody was not Morrera, and Pimental was using a stolen identity from an individual in Puerto Rico. Pimental, who is from the Dominican Republic, allegedly purchased Morrera’s information when he illegally crossed the Mexican border into the United States in 2014. He then used the information to obtain a driver’s license, credit cards and during booking for previous crimes committed. Pimental was held pending his arraignment at Lawrence District Court. This is an active and ongoing investigation and additional charges are pending.

“I want to commend our detectives and partner law enforcement agencies for the outstanding police work on this case,” said Police Lt. Edward J. Guy. “There is a real problem with people using stolen identities and committing crimes under those names, and I am glad we will have the opportunity to bring this case to justice.”

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VOTE SEPT. 4TH, DAY AFTER LABOR DAY... IT'S IMPORTANT!

Secretary of State Bill Galvin has scheduled this year's state primary elections for the day after Labor Day when a lot of people are not even back from summer vacation. That means a very low turnout is expected and as anyone who has ever studied elections knows, a low turnout almost always favors incumbents and insiders because those who vote in low turnout primaries are what we call "super voters". Super voters are those people (like you) who vote in every single election and are usually the people most responsible for the officials who are already in office. As a side note, guess who is on the ballot this year? That's right, Bill Galvin has a "progressive" primary opponent who is challenging him looking to take over our election systems.

Whoever you vote for make sure you put September 4th on your calendar and get out and vote!

LAWRENCE FIRE CHIEF SCHOOLS BOSTON MEDIA ON GUNS

During the massive 3 alarm fire on Prospect Street in Lawrence last month (see photos on page 16) Fire Chief Moriarty was interviewed by a reporter from channel 7 news who, as a side note looks like he was 12 years old. So, the 12-year-old asked the fire chief about the explosions heard inside the building that made him evacuate his firefighters. The explosions were from ammunition in the home, the chief explained. "So, obviously that was illegal ammunition, I assume?" the 12 year old asked him. With a befuddled look on his face, Chief Moriarty looked at him and said ... "Uh... no. Why would I assume that? I have ammunition in my house and it's not illegal."

And that my friends is the only way to push back against the anti-gun media propaganda... at the local level. Great job Chief Moriarty, I was very proud of Lawrence for the way they handled that fire and even more proud of the way you handled the clueless Boston reporters.

Class dismissed

DIZOGLIO SAYS SHE WAS NOT ON BOARD WITH CAMPBELL PLAN AND DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell tried to broker a deal for the Methuen City Council to borrow TEN Million dollars to address their \$4M budget shortfall. She addressed the city council telling them that the "entire delegation" was on board with the ten million borrowing plan. She also said she cleared it with the governor and "consulted" with Mayor Jajuga before presenting it. But, when State Rep. Diana DiZoglio showed up and addressed the council she made it clear that not only did she disagree with the \$10M Campbell/Ja-

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK



Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan with Michael Gorman of "The Movement Family", a group of volunteers who feed and care for the homeless in Lawrence. Gorman appeared on Duggan's "Paying Attention Podcast" on the UPN podcast network last month to discuss his mission and what you can do to make a big difference in your community. You can listen to the podcast on iTunes, GooglePlay, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Podbean, and several other platforms. To sponsor Paying Attention (\$50 per week) email Tom at valleypatriot@aol.com and put "podcast" in the subject box.

juga plan, she didn't even know about it. DiZoglio says she believes that Methuen needs a financial control board not the lower level of state oversight that Campbell and Jajuga were pushing.

CNN'S ACOSTA CRIES BECAUSE OF CROWDS CHANT "CNN SUCKS"

At every Donald Trump rally over the last two years, crowds have chanted "CNN SUCKS" pointing to the CNN crew and taunting them for their blatant lies and fake news about Donald Trump every day. Until recently, it was something CNN and their Democrat Party on-air activists have ignored. But, last month CNN's Jim Acosta - who used to work for the Obama administration and is one of the most unprofessional "journalists" on TV - started complaining on the air claiming that the president calling them fake news and "the enemy of the people" was making him fear for his safety. He took to the airwaves after the most recent incident to once again misrepresent what Trump has said whining that journalists should "take to the streets" to protest the Trump's claim that "the news media is the enemy of the people".

But, you



see, this is why Trump supporters hate CNN and chant CNN sucks Jimmy boy! Because the president NEVER said the "news media" was the enemy of the people as you wrongly report every day. He has consistently said the "FAKE NEWS" was the enemy of the people, and they are. But, it's interesting that if Acosta hears "Fake news" and then interprets that to mean "the news media" maybe it's because Acosta knows deep down that CNN and most of the mainstream "news media" are fake. After all, I don't think they teach you how to be an on air activist for the Democrat Party in Journalism school. I'm pretty sure they teach how to be objective and just report the facts of what happened at the event you are covering.

FEDERAL PROTECTION FOR JOURNALISTS? ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

With President Trump continuing his push-back against fake journalists who present their opinions as news on TV every day, the anti-Trump "news" media is pushing even harder against Trump using their fellow Democrats in Congress. Now, Democrat Congressman Eric Stallwell has introduced a bill called the Federal Journalism



Protection Act seeking to make it a federal crime to assault or intimidate members of the news media while they are performing their jobs. Seriously. You can't make it up. These self-important liberal demagogues really think they are more important than you are! Anyone who follows me when I go live on Facebook in Lawrence may remember last New Year's Eve when a guy punched me in the face for filming a car accident on Lowell and Hampshire Street. He was mad because he didn't want the world to see that his unconscious friend in the car was not out-cold because of the accident, but because he had overdosed on heroin while they were driving. Should that guy who assaulted me be subject to federal prison time? I think not, and I'm a journalist. Journalists do not deserve federal protections from criticism or assault, especially given how many fake journalists there are in this industry. As a side, it's not even a federal crime to assault or even murder a police officer or firefighter in the commission of doing their jobs. These "journalists" actually think they are more heroic and more important than those who are running towards gunfire while the rest of us (including "journalists") are running away. They are so drunk on their own sense of self-importance that they have their fellow democrats in congress trying to make them a "protected class" when in reality most of them have no class at all.

NORTH ANDOVER FARMER'S MARKET - Thanks to Lowell Five and the North Andover Downtown Merchant's Association we have a great Farmer's Market on First and Main Street every Sunday from 10am to 2pm. Local farmers from the Merrimac Valley and some from as far away as Maine and Vermont come to North Andover with their produce and other food products for an incredibly reasonable price. Make sure you come down and check them out!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY... IS "DIVERSITY" ALWAYS GOOD?

We hear people say it and then repeat it as if it's true, but have you ever really given any thought to the idea that "diversity" for the sake of diversity alone is inherently a good thing? Democrat politicians, educators, and even members of the "news" media shove down our throats the idea that we need to be more "diverse" in our communities, at work, in sports etc. and we are all expected to nod in obedient agreement for fear of being called racist or xenophobic. This recently came up in New Hampshire where the governor decided to bow to political correctness and put together a commission on how to "diversify" his state. Of course, there's no evidence or even proof that diversity itself

CONTINUED UNDER FREDDIE



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is a good thing for everyone. Just ask the Indians how diversity worked out for them when a new crop of white people from Western Europe “diversified” the American continent. Was diversity good for them? And why is it that we always hear the same diversity crowd touting how “immigration” is always a good thing when those same liberal demagogues continuously complain about the “immigrants” who came here and “committed genocide” against the Indians in the 1600s and 1700s. This is why it’s important to “pay attention” to the things we are told to believe by our public education system or the news media. Most often the ideas they are shoving down our throats are in direct contradiction to everything else they say they believe. What’s lost today is our ability to critically think and question authority, especially when everyone at every level is telling us the same thing.

SEPARATING CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMMMILIES!

Every democrat running for congress in the 3rd district - including my candidate Juana Matias - has taken a hard stand against Donald Trump “separating children from their families” at the border when illegal aliens are caught sneaking into the country. Matias even called President Trump “Cruel” and “Inhumane” and went so far as to call Trump “sadistic” as if he purposely ripped children from the arms of their parents to punish them for coming into this country illegally. Other congressional candidates took the same tact crying that Trump was mean and evil because ICE put the illegal aliens caught at the border into prison cells and took the children and put them in separate facilities as if “separating children from their families” was the most horrific thing anyone could ever do, bar none. Of course this is nothing but grandstanding. Don’t believe me? Ask yourself this, when thousands of unaccompanied minors were streaming across the Mexican border under the Obama administration were these same democrat politicians advocating that we send them back to Mexico to the “arms of their families”? Was Barbara L’Italien or Dan Koh or Juana Matias crying on Twitter or CNN saying Obama was “sadistic” for letting these kids stay in American instead of sending them back to “the loving arms of their families”? Of course not. Because this is not and has never been about children, or making sure

children are in “the arms of their families” it’s about flooding the U.S. with illegals to replace white, middle class voters who are leaving the Democrat Party in droves. Remember that the next time a democrat whines about Trump “ripping children from the arms of their families”. Just sayin’.

FIorentini SAYS HAVERHILL IS SAFE – SO, HERE’S A CHALLENGE

So, In the wake of rampant violence and gang activity in Haverhill, Mayor James Fiorentini has taken to Facebook and Twitter with a short video to try and reassure Haverhill residents that “Haverhill is safe”. Is it now, Jimmy boy? He touts statistics that are compiled in secret that supposedly show crime is down in his city, but how can we even begin to trust Fiorentini’s word on this matter when the mayor purposely conceals police radio calls from the public? That’s right, Haverhill is the only police department in the state that doesn’t have a public scanner frequency for their regular radio calls for police service. So, here’s a challenge for Jim Fiorentini. If Haverhill is so safe, why don’t you prove it with something more than bogus statistics by opening up your police scanner to the public like every single other police department in the state. Why won’t you let the public hear for themselves what’s really going on in the streets of Haverhill? We all know he won’t do that because Haverhill is NOT safe, in fact Haverhill is less safe than Lawrence. With state and federal law enforcement flooding Lawrence on a daily basis the majority of gangs, drug dealers, and illegal gun dealers have fled the city and set up shop in Haverhill.

VELOZ AUTO GROUP HERE TO HELP YOU GET INTO A USED CAR

Our pal Franklin Veloz of Veloz Auto Group on Mass Ave. in North Andover (on the Lawrence line) is an expert on helping people with bad credit, no credit, or spotty credit, get an auto loan and purchase a pre-owned car. “Sometimes people think they can’t get a car loan because they haven’t worked at their job for a long time or have spotty credit so they don’t even try. If they come see me at Veloz Auto Group I can almost always help them get into a pre-owned car,” Franklin says. He also said if you go down and tell him you learned about Veloz from the Valley Patriot he will go out of his way to take care of you. I have already sent two people to buy a car at Veloz and they were both stunned how easy it was to get into a pre-owned car.

CAMPAGNONE ENDORSES TWO CANDIDATES IN THE SAME RACE

While we love Joyce Campagnone it seems she has endorsed two different candidates for congress in the 3rd congressional district. A photo on Facebook shows Campagnone at an endorsement rally with Mayor Jajuga endorsing Dan Koh for congress in Methuen Square. But day’s later Campagnone was listed on a Barbara L’Italien campaign press release stating that she, Councilor James McCarty and Councilor George Kazanjian were endorsing her in the 3rd congressional race. So, which is it Joyce? Who are we supposed to vote for for congress? Koh or L’Italien. I say if you aren’t sure just vote for both.

CLEAN RIVER PROJECT 2018 SEASON UPDATES

The Clean River Project submitted a proposal last year to the Massachusetts Environmental Protection grant program. This was a bid to clean all the homeless encampments along the river in downtown Lowell as well as tree damn relocation and removal where possible. This grant has been awarded and Clean River Project is preparing to get started soon. Also, the Massachusetts Environmental Trust is an environmental grant program totally funded by the sale and purchase of specialty plates in Massachusetts. Please

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 18



Lisa Yarid

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Valley Towing in Methuen Vindicated by Court Ruling

A judge has dismissed a \$5.5M lawsuit against Valley Towing and two Methuen police officers by Chris Nesbitt, brother of Charlie Nesbitt. Charlie Nesbitt has mounted a social media campaign on behalf of his brother in what some have called “harassment” against Valley Towing accusing the owner of the tow company of violating his constitutional rights. Chris Nesbitt’s lawsuit claimed that Valley Towing’s owner Ron Parrino illegally junked his car months after towing it and accused Methuen Police Officers Korn and Pappalardo of violating his constitutional rights by refusing to investigate the issue as a criminal matter. Nesbitt also alleged that because Parrino is owner of Valley Towing and also head of the city’s licensing board he had used undue influence in that capacity to violate Nesbitt’s rights.

Nesbitt told Fox 25 news that Parrino was running a “criminal enterprise”.

But, United State’s Federal District Court Judge Denise Casper disagreed dismissing the suit.

In her 8 page judgment against Nesbitt, Judge Casper said that Nesbitt couldn’t produce docuuments showing he was even the owner of the car and that she produced no evidence at all as to how Mr. Parrino had used any influence as head of the

city’s licensing board to deny Nesbitt his constitutional rights.

“The complaint... does not identify any conduct taken by Parrino in his capacity as a member of the City of Methuen Licensing Board that Nesbitt contends violated Nesbitt’s rights.”

As for Nesbitt’s complaint against Methuen Officers Korn and Pappalardo, Casper wrote, “Nesbitt contends that Pappalardo and Korn improperly used their discretion by failing to investigate his claims regarding the vehicle, thereby violating Nesbitt’s rights under the Due Process Clause. ... and The failure by the state to investigate a crime, however, does not generally constitute a violation of the Due Process Clause.”

Writing later in her ruling, “...the facts alleged by Nesbitt fail to make out the violation of a constitutional right and Korn and Pappalardo are entitled to qualified immunity.”

Nesbitt filed an amended complaint but the judge refused to even rule on it claiming he had not followed the correct procedure to do so.

PARRINO BREAKS SILENCE

Valley Towing owner Ron Parrino has refused to talk publicly about the case, even turning down an offer from Fox25 News in Boston which did an “expose” on



the Nesbitt matter.

Parrino said he was happy to talk with The Valley Patriot, saying that he knew at least The Valley Patriot would report on him fairly, noting that the Eagle~Tribune and other media outlets acted irresponsibly when reporting on the issue.

Parrino told The Valley Patriot that he

has not ruled out a lawsuit for defamation now that the judge has ruled in his favor. He would not say who that lawsuit would be against.

“We are pleased with the court ruling against us and the city, Parrino told The

TOWING: PAGE 15

An Interview with Comedienne Christine Hurley

PLAYING AT SALVATORE’S - FRIDAY AUGUST 24th

The Queen of Comedy Christine Hurley is making a rare stop in Lawrence this month at Salvatore’s restaurant in Lawrence on Friday August 24th.

The Valley Patriot caught up with our old friend Christine for a quick interview about her local appearance.

Tell people who Christine Hurley is?

“Well first, I want to say how much I love Mike Agricola the owner of Salvatore’s. He’s such a great guy and when I had the chance to come back to Sal’s I jumped at the opportunity if for no other reason but to see Michael again.”

“But, who is Christine Hurley? I’m a mother of five, married to my firefighter husband for 30 years. I’ve always been told I’m funny my whole life but I never thought for a minute that I would have a career in comedy. But, if you keep your eyes on the prize and work hard, things happen and I fell into it almost by mistake.”

Christine says she did the “Funniest Mom in America” 20 years ago and it started her on the road to being such a big name in comedy. My husband and I drove to New York and auditioned for ‘Funniest Mom’ for Nick at Night. There were 1,100 people auditioning and I ended up being the first runner-up. It was my very first time on stage and I wasn’t nervous at all

because I had no expectations. I had never done it before so it was organic. As soon as I got on stage, though, I knew this was for me; I loved it.”

Christine says she went back to her “regular life” for a couple of years after that but got calls from people who had seen her on ‘Funniest Mom’

“I didn’t have an established name in comedy. But, I was lucky. I started to do live shows in Plymouth. We have a friend who owns a restaurant and my husband asked him if I could do comedy, so they gave me my own room and I got very successful because we had lots of friends come and cheer me on. It happened really fast and soon we brought in big names like Lenny Clarke who saw me perform and took it from there.”

“They were all wonderful to me and they helped me. Johnny Pizzi he saw me ten years ago and he said ‘I’m going to make you a star!’ and God love him, he kept his word.”

“Right now, I’m on the ‘Food Network’ as a contestant on “The Great Food Truck Race” that’s airing right now. I went to California for 6 weeks in March and it’s airing now.”

Hurley was a member of an all-star pack of nationally famous comedians at Boston Garden three years ago for “Com-



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ics Come Home”. “It was unbelievable, working with Dennis Leary was awesome, working with all of them was awesome. Dennis has been very supportive of me and given me a lot of work, he’s a really good guy.

Last summer Hurley had her name in lights in Las Vegas and was in Montreal for the “Just for Laughs Comedy Festival”.

“I saw Lenny (Clarke) played at Salvatore’s last month. I love Salvatore’s and I love Lenny. That must have been a great show. He and I work together four nights a week. We are a great team and we’re pretty good apart too.” she said laughing.

“We have a very similar energy. He’s also been so good to me, and a great supporter. He helps me a lot. I mean, you could pinch me, if I ever could have thought five year ago that I would be working with Lenny Clarke.

Hurley says her success is mainly due to her firefighter husband. “Jimmy Hurley is fabulous about all this comedy stuff. He loves it. I met him when I was 16 at a house party and told my friends ‘I said stick a fork in him, I was going to have to fake a pregnancy to get him. He works his ass for me, he loves every show - there’s no jealousy there at all, he’s very proud of me.”

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Dems Turn Congressional Race into Clown Circus

Brian Genest
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

Have you seen this troupe of Democrats running in the 3rd Congressional District? The big top tent is stuffed with far-out lefties, even by Massachusetts standards. Forget the clown car; we need a bus!

In the center ring is State Sen. Barbara L’Italien, a woman who truly knows no boundaries and no shame... She doesn’t even live in the Congressional district that she’s running to represent. Can you say #CarpetbaggerInClownShoes?

Barbara L’Italien owed Massachusetts \$7,618 in back income taxes when she was running for state senate. Then she gave her campaign a \$13,000 loan. When the truth was exposed, she blamed her opponent for playing politics.

Barbara L’Italien voted earlier this year to make Massachusetts a sanctuary state for illegal aliens – through a budget amendment. Then she posted a Twitter video and gushed about how proud it made her feel to disregard the law and ignore our borders.

Barbara L’Italien recently got on Fox News by pretending to be someone else. Then she attacked President Donald Trump and was cut off.

Naturally, all this gives Barbara L’Italien street cred with fellow Democrats. The real shame is that four Dracut Selectmen recently hosted a fundraiser for this hack who has delivered absolutely nothing for our town.

Anyway, you can’t have a circus without animals. This one has two swamp creatures riding the coattails of jackasses named Marty.

Lori “from Lowell” Trahan was former congressman Marty Meehan’s chief of staff. In case you need to know anything else about her, she’s already spent 10 years on the payroll in Washington, DC. In other words, thanks, but no thanks. #LoriLivesInWestfordNow

Dan Koh, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh’s former chief of staff, wants to go to Capitol Hill to fight President Trump. (Yawn.) Maybe Koh should go back to Boston City Hall to fight corruption. The last thing we need in Congress is another arrogant, snot-nosed brat from Massachusetts with Trump Derangement Syndrome. Whiny little Joe Kennedy III is already serving as the current poster child. Here’s a better idea: #GoToHell.

And that’s only the first three acts. Wait until you see the least-greatest sideshow on Earth, ladies and gentlemen!

Rufus Gifford served as the U.S. ambassador to Denmark after raising more than

\$1 billion as Barack Obama’s finance director in the 2012 election. His other Democrat qualifications include marrying his husband at Copenhagen City Hall and “starring” in a 10-episode documentary on Danish TV.

Juana Matias, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic who’s been a state representative in Lawrence for about a nanosecond, wants to abolish ICE, the federal immigration enforcement agency. Thank goodness Lawrence and other communities don’t have any drug-related crime problems connected to people from the Dominican Republic and other countries who have been picked up recently in federal drug sweeps.

Bopha Malone is another carpetbagger who doesn’t live in the district. Her key credentials include working at a Lowell bank and having Trump Derangement Syndrome. At a recent event to honor victims of the Armenian genocide, she instead used it as an opportunity to bash the president – and she heard about it afterward from at least one woman who was livid about her inappropriate and out-of-place comments.

Alexandra Chandler is a former naval intelligence analyst and a former man. The transgender candidate has endorsed fellow party progressive Sabrina Heisey for state representative in Dracut and Tyngsborough. (Sabrina Heisey accuses incumbent Colleen Garry of being transphobic and anti-LGBTQ.)

What do all these Democrat candidates have in common, other than being out of sync on major issues with the voters in Dracut and many other towns in the 3rd district? If they win the general election, they’ll be in the minority party in the House of Representatives. That’s not going to help deliver funding or results for the people of our district. And we’re running out of clown noses.

Brian Genest is a member of the Dracut Republican Town Committee. A marketing and communications expert with 20 years of success driving growth, maximizing ROI and boosting profits for consumer and high-tech brands, he has developed and executed strategic initiatives for a range of disruptive technologies, including robots, mobile commerce solutions and SaaS products. Earlier in his career, Genest worked as a newspaper reporter and editor for the Dracut Dispatch, Derry News and Billerica Minuteman.



School Committees Play Vital Role in State Oversight

D.J. Deeb
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

As of the deadline for this article the City/School budgets have not been fully resolved or finalized, but I hope to provide more information in a future article. In the meantime members of the City of Methuen Charter Review Commission recently discussed the possibility of recommending the elimination of the Methuen School Committee. This suggestion was offered by former Mayor Dennis DiZoglio, who serves as chair of the Charter Review Commission. Even though I didn’t want to lend any credence to this suggestion since it’s not going anywhere, I felt the need to write about what school committees do for the benefit of those who are curious. The role of school committees in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is governed by state law and Massachusetts General Laws do not permit the elimination of school committees for good reason.

A short history lesson is in order here. Massachusetts Bay Colony first established public schools in 1647 and the first schools were administered by local town meetings. As the population of the state grew school committees were established in most cities and towns separate from municipal government. In 1826 the Massachusetts Legislature passed a law requiring the establishment of school committees in each city or town to have “the general charge and superintendence” of all the public schools of the town. This system of school governance served as a model for the rest of the nation, which soon followed suit in establishing elected school boards.

In proposing to eliminate school committees in Methuen and transferring

their responsibilities to the City Council, Dennis DiZoglio cited three reasons for combining: (1) Duplication of roles; (2) Efficiency of purchasing; and (3) Distrust of officials. City Councilor and Charter Review Committee member Steve Saba stated that the current system was “just not working.” Let’s examine each of these reasons given respectively.

Duplication of roles: According to the National School Boards Association website, “Local school boards have responsibility for goal setting, policymaking, community involvement and oversight of administrative aspects for their individual school districts.” Massachusetts General Law provides that school committees have three primary responsibilities in the governance of public schools: (1) Establishing Education Policies for schools; (2) Approving and managing a line-item budget; and (3) Hiring and providing oversight of school district superintendents. We can see that these responsibilities are very different from the role and responsibilities of the City Council. It is certainly not a duplication of roles.

Efficiency of purchasing: The Methuen School Department has worked very cooperatively with the city for years. This is true when we consider payroll, health insurance, Medicaid reimbursements, etc. Over the last several years the Methuen School Department has assisted the city with their human resources overload and in maintaining city buildings and fields. There is currently productive collaboration taking place between the School Department and the city with regards to improving Information Technology options in the city. It should also be noted that for the last several years the School

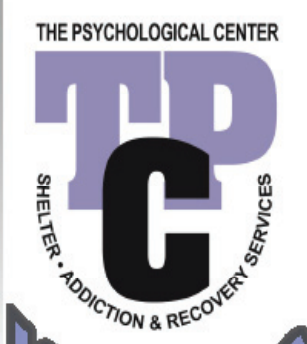
METHUEN PAGE 18



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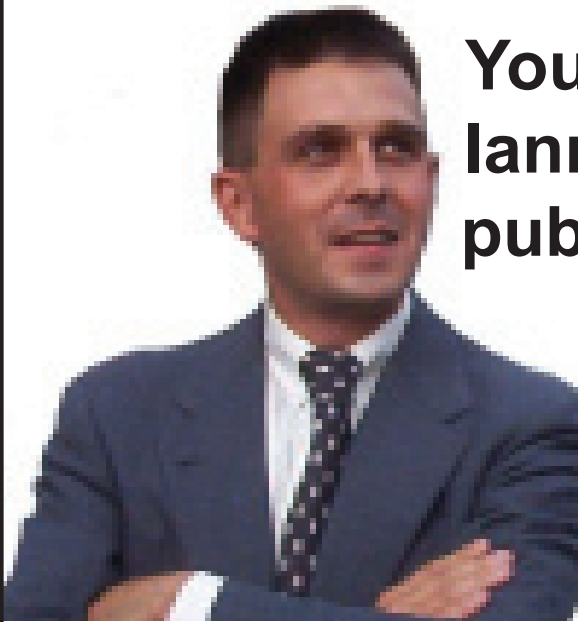
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~ Mike Gagliardi



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VOTE! SEPTEMBER 4th!

Veterans Legislation Goes to Governor Baker’s Desk to Be Signed

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

I am proud that the Massachusetts Legislature has renewed its commitment to our Veterans by passing the BRAVE Act. As a Veteran and coming from a family of Veterans, I am proud and grateful that Massachusetts continues to honor those that have made, and continue to make, many sacrifices to serve our country.

This legislation increases burial assistance amounts, provides time off for Veterans on Memorial Day (with or without pay at the discretion of the employer), increases the veterans tax work-off program benefits, reserves parking for Veterans at city and town halls, and increases property tax benefits. It also establishes April 5th as Gold Star Wives Day and the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mothers and Families Day.

Veterans will also benefit from a decrease in the residency requirements related to the Veterans property tax exemptions. Currently, eligible Veterans have to reside in Massachusetts for 5 consecutive years to qualify for the exemption. This legislation reduces the 5 consecutive year requirement to 2 consecutive years and adds Prisoners of War as a qualifying group for property tax abatements, ultimately extending this benefit to more Veterans and their families. Additionally,

the bill increases the Veterans Tax Work-Off Program credit from \$1,000 per year to \$1,500 per year. This program allows Veterans who serve in the community to use the credit to abate property taxes.

An important provision in this bill increases the burial expenses benefit for Veterans in need. The last time this benefit was updated by the Legislature was 18 years ago and set the benefit at \$2,000. Today, the average cost of a funeral is \$7,000 and while funeral homes are still performing burials for Veterans in need, the \$2,000 is inadequate for a proper funeral service. This provision will increase the benefit from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for a funeral costing \$5,000 or less.

Passing this legislation sends a clear message that our state recognizes the unique challenges faced by our Veterans and their families, and that we are committed to providing real assistance to honor their sacrifices.

Women’s Defense Corps Legislation
Governor Charlie Baker signed into law a bill filed by myself and State Representative Paul Tucker which designates April 2nd as the annual observance of the Massachusetts Women’s Defense Corps Remembrance Day. The intent of the bill is to recognize the generous contributions of the approximately 18,000 women who were trained for duty and approved by Governor Leverett Saltonstall to serve the



Commonwealth during World War II. The Massachusetts Women’s Defense Corps (MWDC) were a group of volunteer women dedicated to providing war-related and emergency services to citizens of the Commonwealth.

Their assistance to their country during its time of need evolved into several areas including air raid wardens, drivers, communications personnel, canteen workers, medics, chemical detections personnel, and emergency firefighters. These women, who wore brown uniforms purchased at their own expense, worked closely with the Massachusetts State Guard, the U.S. Army, state agencies, and local communities.

The MWDC was deactivated in 1946 and the only recognition they received was the award of a ribbon for three-years-service. I filed this legislation for the first time in 2013 with former State Representative John Keenan, who is now

the President of Salem State University. When President Keenan resigned from the Legislature in 2014 to accept a position as the City Solicitor of Salem, his successor Rep. Tucker refiled the bill with me for the last two sessions.

These women did not just answer the call, they demanded to serve and their service was very important and inspiring. While there are not many surviving members of the Massachusetts Women’s Defense Corps, it is so fitting to provide this recognition as they provided an important service to our country and answered the call. They provide inspiration for all to search to find a way that we can serve our country.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the Cities of Methuen and Haverhill and currently serves as the Vice Chair of Revenue. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or at 617-722-2380.

VALLEY TOWING: FROM PAGE 11

Valley Patriot.

“We chose to keep quiet with the facts and did not talk to the media at all. The media stories were all negative based towards valley towing, especially what has been posted on Facebook with nothing but rumors. It has affected the business with customers gossiping without knowing the true facts of the real story.”

“We had tried settling this with the insurance company, Liberty Mutual, on the towing and storage charges on the Honda. After months of storage and towing fees, they will only pay reasonable charges, meaning they won’t pay for months and months of storage for a car that is basically worth scrap value. The accident was under investigation for a long period of time by the insurance company.”

“Having this case dismissed will hopefully clarify and squash all the rumors against us,” he added.

For his part, Charlie Nesbitt, who initially told the Valley Patriot that the Honda was his car, only to claim later on that it was his brother’s, but had no valid legal paperwork to prove ownership. The Nesbitts have put back up a Facebook page attacking Valley Towing after taking it down when he lost the suit. He is now claiming on social media that he is appealing the dismissal.

“Charlie was not even the owner or plaintiff of the car, Chris was (allegedly) the owner, driving on some type of NH transporter or dealer plate. The car was never registered to him at the time of the accident. The car came into our possession on 12-17-16 for an accident at Broadway/Osgood St Methuen towed by Methuen Police. The legal owner of the car at the time according to the registry was (name redacted) in Lawrence.”

“Once we towed the car, it had been stored here for a period of 6 months with storage being at \$35 a day, plus towing and other fees. Estimated storage would have been around \$5500.00 for a 20 year old car.”

Parrino said that the Nesbitts refused to accept anything anyone told them.

“As explained before to Mr. Nesbitt, the police will not get involved since it is a civil matter. He has been told this numerous times but persistently would not accept it. That began leading to his “protests” and antics on Facebook along with calling every media outlet in the area.”

Valley Towing has been the subject of pickets and social media targeting by several people claiming that they were treated unfairly, saying the campaign against him is glad the court has given him back his good name.



Lawrence Man Arrested for Threatening Man with Gun Behind Police Station

LAWRENCE – On August 2nd at approximately 12 PM, Lawrence Police Officers Carlos De Los Santos and Jose Gonzalez of Patrol Division responded to Wendy’s 55 Hampshire St, which is located directly behind the police station, for a report that a male had just brandished a firearm. Upon arrival, the Officers were met by a male who was a landscaping contractor working on the Wendy’s property.

The male stated that while he using a leaf blower some grass clippings blew into the air onto a black Acura sedan. The operator of the vehicle became angry when he noticed the grass was on his car.

A verbal confrontation took place during which the operator of the motor vehicle lifted up his shirt and brandished a firearm which was tucked into his waistband. A description of the suspect, his vehicle, as well as the license plate of the vehicle was broadcast to the responding units.

Within three to five minutes of the broadcast, Detective Harold Rogers located the vehicle on Union Street in the area of Summer Street. A motor vehicle stop was conducted by Detective Rogers and Officer Abel Cano.

The operator of the motor vehicle, Franklin Mauel Laras age 21 of Lawrence, was taken into custody without incident by Detective Rogers and Officer Abel Cano.

Detective Rogers located a firearm tucked into the waistband of Laras.

A field show up was conducted during which Laras, who is not licensed to carry a firearm was positively identified as the individual who brandished the firearm.

Laras will be arraigned tomorrow in Lawrence District Court charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, and other firearm related charges.

There is no further information at this time.



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A three alarm fire ravaged a home on Prospect and East Haverhill Street last month destroying the home. Above right: Firefighters from Lowell look on at the remains of what used to be a home to 16 people who were displaced by the fire. If that guy on the far right looks familiar to you, he should. That's former Lawrence resident Francis "Buddy" Lathem.



Olivia Kelly of North Andover reading The Valley Patriot while in the waiting room at the doctor's office reminds all the kids out there that you are never too young to read the news.





Christina Minicucci

State Representative

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VOTE SEPTEMBER 4th! THE DAY AFTER LABOR DAY

Jim Lyons

State Representative





Methuen resident Joe Carroll was in the hospital last month and his daughter Lynn posted this on her facebook page saying that Joe told her reading “The Valley Patriot is the best medicine”. Joe took his Valley Patriot to Boston with him when he got transferred.



Hunter Roux wants to remind everyone that you are never too young to read the newspaper Hunter also says Advertising in The Valley Patriot Really Works! For ad rates email valleypatriot@aol.com.

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT PINA PRINZIVALLI



Kim and Ted Anderson (middle) appeared on the Paying Attention Podcast last month with Tom Duggan and Tim Wood (from Loop Weekly). Kim is in desperate need of a kidney and seeking a donor. If you or someone you know might be interested Kim says her insurance will cover the medical expenses. You can contact her at kimkidney1960.com You can download the Paying Attention Podcast on iHeartRadio, iTunes, Spotify, GooglePlay, PodBean, and everywhere else you can download podcasts.



Among the 34 Graduates from 17 Fire Departments are Methuen Firefighters Brian Hall and Derek Michienzi (pictured left to right). At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, Hall and Michienzi learned from certified fire instructors who are also experienced firefighters. They are given training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, confined space rescue techniques, and rappelling.



David Garafolo of Methuen was in the hospital recently and sent us this photo saying that it helped keep him company while he was laid up. We are glad to hear Dave is feeling fine now and we are happy to know we were able to help him get through a couple of tough days.

consider purchasing one to fund this great organization that helps keep Massachusetts the beautiful state it is.

Once again, Clean River Project’s partnership with the cities of Lawrence and Chelmsford have been renewed for the 2018 season and they have been actively setting booms and cleaning them on a regular basis. Not so much for the City of Methuen, however. Some of their recent clean ups have been done with the Boy Scouts of America, Unitas, Rick Green for Congress campaign, Girl Scouts of America and the office staff for Congressman Seth Moulton to name but a few. If you have a community service requirement for HR or graduation or a court ordered number of hours, PLEASE reach out and contact Clean River Project.

Clean River Project is still running a fund-raising campaign for the boat skimmer they would like to bring here to the Merrimack Valley. Check out their Facebook page for details. 40 Friends challenge. Fill out the poster, bring us the funds, pick a date for the Ghostbusters car at a personal event or book a boat tour for up to 12 people. It’s that easy!

HONOR FLIGHT FUNDRAISER FOR VETERANS AT UNCLE EDDIES!

The Lawrence folks & friends reunion are having a fundraiser at Uncle Eddie’s Oceanfront Tavern Saturday, August 18th from 2-closing. The northeast honor flight mission helps older veterans attend memorials and monuments they otherwise could not afford. All proceeds go to the northeast honor flight. Suggested donation \$10.

KATY CAREDEO SELECTED AS ASSOCIATE OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY - Kathy Caredeo, RN, director of Cardiovascular Services and Ambulatory Procedures at Lawrence General Hospital, was recently selected as an Associate of the American College of Cardiology (AACC). This designation is one of the most distinguished offered by the American College of Cardiology, honoring those with advanced training and education who are experts in their field and hold national certifications in their specialty.

Successful candidates for the AACC designation must hold national board certification, have completed continuing education in cardiovascular medicine, and demonstrated a commitment to professional development with the American College of Cardiology. The designation emphasizes the importance of thinking about the cardiovascular care experience in a holistic, team-based way.

A resident of Salem, NH, Caredeo has been employed at Lawrence General since 1984 and has played an important leadership role in the development of the hospital’s highly successful cardiac program.

MASSACHUSETTS BREAST CANCER COALITION’S ANNUAL STATE-WIDE AGAINST THE TIDE EVENT

Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) will be holding its annual, state-

NOTEBOOK: FROM PAGE 9

wide Against the Tide multi-sport event again in 2018. Set against the backdrop of a beautiful state park, Against the Tide offers something for all outdoor enthusiasts. Participants can enjoy the pristine beach and water locale for the half-mile paddle board, 1-mile competitive swim, 1-mile or half-mile recreational swims, and 2-mile kayak events, as well as the tree-lined rolling paved course for both the USATF certified 5K and 10K runs and the 3-mile fitness walk. All ages and abilities are welcome to participate in one or more of these exciting activities. The event also offers an Aquathon “Splash and Dash” component, where participants “splash” in the competitive 1-mile swim and immediately “dash” in the 5K or 10K run (chosen by the participant). All swim, run, and Aquathon components are timed using chip timing systems. Participants may register as an individual or as part of a team. Registration is \$40 per adult per event activity and \$25 per student per event activity. Participants are encouraged to fundraise beyond these suggested minimums, as all proceeds support Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition’s unique goal towards breast cancer prevention. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest swim, run, and Aquathon athletes and top fundraisers.

The statewide Cape Cod Against the Tide will be held for the 19th year at DCR’s Nickerson State Park on Saturday, August 18, 2018. The event starts at 7:00 am and ends at 12:00 noon. Please visit www.mbcc.org/swim or call 617-376-6222 for more information and to register.

CARDIOLOGIST DR. MUKHERJEE TO RECEIVE SANTAGATI AWARD

For hundreds of heart patients in the Merrimack Valley, the name Dr. Sunit Mukherjee evokes smiles and expressions of affection. The longtime North Andover resident has been a fixture at Lawrence General Hospital for 22 years. The administration recognizes Dr. Mukherjee for his significant leadership in the development of the hospital’s highly successful cardiac program. On September 29, 2018, Dr. Mukherjee will receive the 2018 Santagati Award for Visionary Leadership.

Early in his career, Dr. Mukherjee spent much of his time performing diagnostic cardiac catheterizations—a procedure that threads a long, thin catheter through the femoral artery to the heart. In July 2008, Lawrence General’s Cardiac Cath Lab performed its first interventional catheterization, diagnosing and treating blocked arteries during the same procedure, which has saved countless lives over past decade. Dr. Mukherjee was instrumental in laying the groundwork for this major new service offering in the Merrimack Valley. In the years since, the hospital gained accreditation in interventional catheterization, chest pain management and congestive heart failure care—the only cardiovascular center in the

region to attain these accreditations.

CIRCLES OF WISDOM RELOCATES TO METHUEN

After over 20 years in downtown Andover, Circles of Wisdom is relocating to a bigger space at 386 Merrimack Street, Suite 1-A in Methuen. Circles of Wisdom serves the spiritual needs of the community, with a retail space that features books, crystals, incense, gemstone jewelry and more. They also sponsor seminars with speakers both local and national. And they have a well-respected variety of intuitive readers and healers offering sessions on a daily basis. With this move, the business is more than doubling its size. The new space features a seminar room for larger events and a bright, sunny sales floor. Owners and staff are committed to creating a welcoming environment for anyone looking to explore spirituality, alternative healing, and better ways of living in this world.

Circles of Wisdom invites the community to celebrate our grand opening with festivities on Saturday, September 8 including a psychic fair and other activities. (978) 474-8010 www.circlesofwisdom.com

FROM CNN BREAKING NEWS!!!
WOMAN DISAGREES WITH HUSBAND!

Is there a couple or family alive on this planet where everyone always agrees with everyone else on every topic? Does your wife or husband always vote for the same person you do? Or agree with everything you say? Surely your children must always nod in obedience every time you tell them something, right? This is the world that the major cable news and newspaper “journalists live in but it sure isn’t the world the rest of us live in. I refer, of course to CNN’s “STUNNING” “Breaking news” that President Trump’s daughter (GASP!) Disagrees with him on something. It was a major part of all CNN’s opinion shows (disguised as news) as “Stunning!” “troublesome for the president”, a sign that Trump “doesn’t even have the support of his family”. All of that effort to take something mundane and average to try and justify their 24-7 fake news about what is happening in Washington DC.

Days after the “BREAKING NEWS” about Trump’s daughter disagreeing with him became yet another “BREAKING NEWS” that Trump’s WIFE disagrees with him on something. Again two days of panel discussions where they are “stunned” and predicting this is going to have even more dire consequences for the President. If you want to know why so many Americans believe that CNN is “FAKE NEWS” you can look no further than their own coverage of things that really don’t mean anything to your life, your children’s education, your job, or your retirement fund. You know... things that are “news”.

Fact is the fake news media like CNN and NBC is not only exhibited in the

way they take the innocuous and turn it into scandals of major significance, it’s also which stories are a priority to them and which they completely ignore. When someone’s wife disagreeing with them is a scandal of significant proportion to the “journalists” but not a shooting of a police officer, or a missing child, or a major flood, they are no longer presenting news, they are campaigning for a political view ... presented as “news”. And that my friends is what any real journalist would call “Fake news”.

HAVERHILL MAN GETS 8 1/3 YEARS FOR FENTANYL & HEROIN CONSPIRACY - BOSTON – A Haverhill man was sentenced last week in federal court in Boston for his role in an opioid trafficking conspiracy involving the distribution of fentanyl, heroin, and oxycodone across Massachusetts and Florida.

Jesus Gonzalez, 23, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Denise J. Casper to 100 months in prison and four years of supervised release. In April 2018, Gonzalez pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute over 100 grams of heroin and/or 40 grams of fentanyl, one count of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute oxycodone, and one count of conspiracy to launder monetary instruments. Gonzalez was arrested in June 2016 for his role in a widespread conspiracy involving heroin, fentanyl, and opioid pill trafficking, as well as money laundering offenses in Massachusetts and Florida. From at least 2014, Gonzalez obtained heroin and fentanyl from sources in Massachusetts and conspired with others to distribute the narcotics, including approximately 230 grams of a mixture of heroin and fentanyl in November 2015. Gonzalez also participated in a conspiracy to obtain oxycodone pills from Florida, have them shipped to Massachusetts, and then distributed. Finally, Gonzalez participated in a conspiracy to launder and conceal the proceeds of the sale of narcotics by using funnel bank accounts to send money to Florida.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Brian D. Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Boston Field Division; Kristina O’Connell, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service’s Criminal Investigation in Boston; Delany De-Leon Colon, Acting Inspector in Charge of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service; John Gibbons, U.S. Marshal for the District of Massachusetts; and Mickey D. Leadingham, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Boston Field Division, made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the Massachusetts State Police and the Biddeford (Maine), Framingham, Haverhill, Lawrence, Manchester (N.H.), Methuen, Millis, Natick, Stoughton, and Waltham Police Departments. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Nadine Pellegrini and Craig Estes of Lelling’s Office prosecuted the case.

METHUEN: FROM PAGE 13

Department has functioned with a biweekly payroll system, which saves the city thousands of dollars each year. The rest of the city has still not transitioned to this biweekly system. The Methuen School Department has certainly been efficient.

Distrust of officials: I find this claim really insulting. First off, unlike the City Council, the Methuen School Committee began preparing a budget in January and had it finalized by March. Members of the School Committee, including yours truly, tried to meet several times with the previous City Council. Our requests for meetings were ignored and the previous City Council refused to meet with us. Members of the previous City Council failed to read

the contracts that put the city in the budget crisis. Some members were too concerned about securing jobs and political favors for themselves and their family members. The Methuen School Committee has gone above and beyond to be transparent with city officials and the public. This can most recently be seen with the current budget fiasco. It should also be noted that the City of Methuen was fined \$3.5 Million by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts 4 years ago for underfunding the schools.

On another note, the Charter Commission members have an important role to play. They should ask questions and examine ways to improve efficiency in the city. I want to thank those who

are serving in this role for doing so. It can be a thankless job. Ultimately they will make recommendations which will have to go to the City Council and then to the voters for final approval. Dennis DiZoglio has been involved in Methuen City politics for decades. He should know better. This begs the question of whose agenda is he promoting? Kudos to Charter Review Commission members Ron Marsan and Dr. Sue Nicholson for challenging the proposal to combine the roles of the Methuen City Council and Methuen School Committee offered by Mr. DiZoglio.

School committees in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts certainly have an important role to play in providing oversight over our public schools. Their responsibilities are vastly different from

those of the City Council. In responding to Mr. DiZoglio’s suggestion, I agree with my school committee colleague Bob Vogler, who stated at our June 25th workshop meeting, “This is not worthy to be discussed!”

D.J. Deeb is a Methuen resident and Secretary of the Methuen School Committee. Deeb is an Adjunct Professor of History/Government at Bunker Hill Community College and an Adjunct Political Science Instructor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Deeb also serves as Social Studies Department Chair at Notre Dame High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He is the author of Israel, Palestine, and the Quest for Middle East Peace (University Press, 2013) and The Collapse of Middle East Peace (IUniverse, 2003).



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ABBY’S TEEN TALK

Abigail Juknavorian
VALLEY PATRIOT TEEN COLUMNIST

“Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.” — James Baldwin

There are several definitions of the term “role models”. One that I particularly like is the definition of a role model is someone who often takes an overwhelming position of power in someone’s life by strongly influencing his or hers own behavior. In this day and age many young adults, including myself, have several different role models that we look toward to set a leading example for us in their lives. A role model can be anyone from a friend or family member, to a teacher, or a celebrity or even an activist. Political leaders are often big role models in the lives of many people. Former President Barack Obama is one example of a political role model who had a large influence on many of my peers. As our nation’s first Black president he set a precedent to succeed and exceed expectations, even when others believe you don’t deserve it no matter how hard you work for something. Governor Mitt Romney is another example of a political role model. The 2012 Republican Party’s Presidential Nominee possesses several great attributes, including his will to serve and facilitate to all people. To quote Romney, “Opportunity expands when there is excellence and choice in education, when taxes are lowered, when every citizen has affordable, portable health insurance and when constitutional freedoms are preserved.”


I believe that if you walked up to any young adult on the street and asked them if either of these men had a positive influence on society or on their lives, most would probably say yes. Now given the negativity that we are seeing in our daily news cycle around our current President, it makes me wonder that if you asked the same group about Donald Trump, what the response would be. Unfortunately, I have a feeling many would say no.

Let’s look at President Trump’s European trip and the Helsinki summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin as ex-

amples. During his trip to Europe, which included Belgium, the United Kingdom, and Finland, the President made remarks that upset many Americans. According to a CNN article (Tue July 17, 2018), while during the NATO meeting in Brussels, Trump “Slammed Germany and other countries for their lack of spending on defense and again questioned the role of NATO.” Furthermore while visiting the United Kingdom, Trump also “Trashed a sitting British Prime Minister and pushed for a disastrous hard Brexit”, again according to the same aforementioned CNN story. During the Helsinki summit with Putin, Trump faced a large amount of criticism for appearing to side with the Russian President over his own U.S. intelligence agencies. That raises a lot of questions in terms of setting an example of trust in your own nation and how that will affect the younger generations and their outlook on politics.

I still feel that despite many negative connotations about my generation most teens are taught to treat everyone with respect and always try to think before you speak. Therefore it is understandable to learn that many young adults are expressing significant concern that Trump put our country in an awkward and dare I say even embarrassing position.

I do understand that our President is outspoken and unapologetic. He won the hearts of normal people by simply appearing to speak his mind. Unscripted, off the cuff, and shocking sometimes. Donald Trump has been a major focal point in the media, and my generation has not missed that; instead, we want to take a stand against or for him. Politics and Trump’s past and recent actions have been not only noticed but also have affected many teens who are searching for role models.



Abigail Juknavorian is a junior in high school and a resident of Methuen. She is a member of the YMCA Youth and Government Press Corps and a delegate to the UMASS Lowell Model UN.

Town vs. City Government:
The Governing Pros and Cons

Casey Pratt
VALLEY PATRIOT TEEN COLUMNIST

Groveland and Boston are two vastly different communities in Massachusetts, which have vastly different governing bodies. From a distance, local government simply seems like a smaller version of city government. Groveland has an executive branch in the form of the Board of Selectmen, and a legislative branch in the form of Town Meetings. Boston’s executive and legislative branches come in the form of a Mayor and a City Council. The general structure is the same in any governing body in America, but the small differences can vastly change how the community functions alongside their government.

An easy example of this is people’s tendency to use the mayor as a scapegoat. They are elected for four year periods and have some control over the branches in his or her government. Despite there being many branches in Boston, with different offices being responsible for certain things, to the denizens of the city, it all gets put on the mayor’s head.

This easy blaming is especially evident on social media, where people are complaining to the current Mayor of Boston about traffic, sending him videos of bad drivers, telling him about how their school has no budget, and sending him pictures of cracked sidewalks. Obviously, there are different departments that specialize in each of those categories. Yet, instead of contacting them, everyone goes directly to the top. In a way, that makes sense, however, it makes the mayor’s office completely backlogged, while the transportation and education branches of Boston’s government won’t know about the problem for a week or more.

The opposite thing happens here in Groveland. All Selectmen are elected for three years. Some Selectmen were elected on different years than others; the chair, O’Neil, is up for reelection in 2019, Dube-Carpenter and Dunn are up in 2020, and Watson and Wood are up in 2021. Most people are aware that they have a board of selectmen that they elected, but few think to contact them when they have a problem. They only meet bi-weekly, which means their response time is extended, and there is no single person that has unrivaled power in the town government because the board must have a majority

vote to pass most things. That in mind, the taxpayers of Groveland don’t regularly think of the Selectmen as being able to fix whatever problems are apparent in the governance of the town.


In actuality, they have a significant influence on local law. They appoint other townspeople to certain boards and commissions and have contact with larger governmental figures. No individual on the board is as powerful as the mayor, but together they have the same duties and function similarly.

Having Town Meetings instead of a City Council has the same obvious difference as having a Board of Selectmen instead of a Mayor. On a City Council, the townspeople have less input, yet it is much more efficient.

The reason for this difference is that in Groveland, no one is searching for immediate change, but many are looking for a voice in what happens in their town. In Boston, where things are always changing, and new things are always being asked, it’s necessary to have a decisive governing body instead of one run solely by and for the people.

In both styles of governance, though, people seem unclear about how to contact the officials who can help them, so here is a quick summary for anyone who wants to make a change in their local or state government. If there is a problem being voted on nationally, or that people in DC are voting on, contact state legislature via phone or email, as they are more likely to pay attention to that than an email. If there is an issue in town, then go to the next town meeting to speak on that issue, or contact the head of the board relating to the issue.

Hopefully, everyone will use that information, because what is the point of a democracy if the people don’t take advantage of the voice that they have in it?



Casey Pratt is a painter and photographer, and a bit of an adrenaline junkie. She also excels in English, and hopes to have a career photojournalist. Contact Casey on her Instagram, @acuriousteen

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Rep. José Tosado Embodies State House’s ‘Failure To Protect’

BENEATH THE SURFACE

The Church and the Death Penalty

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

State Auditor Suzanne Bump recently released an audit on complaints handled by the Division of Professional Licensure.

Almost every profession requires a license these days. The promise made by the State for interfering in the people’s right to earn a living is that it would be the watchful guardian protecting the public. Candace Sloan, who was illegally appointed by Charlie Baker to a consecutive third term as state medical board chairperson, is thus compelled to say, “We are passionately committed to public safety!” while throwing patients out on the street.

Bump’s audit found that 25% of complaints were not handled within the required 60 days. These complaints involved “gross negligence, incompetence or substantial violations of regulations” including “people practicing without licenses, unsanitary conditions and fraud.”

Any normal person would find this immediately shocking.

Instead, Rep. José Tosado, member of the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, told Kristin Palpini of the Berkshire Eagle: “We absolutely are aware of the report. If things aren’t fixed, [the joint committee] can call in and hold a hearing; we can talk about the issue and provide direction. At this point, it’s not at that level.”

On July 23, 2018 I emailed Rep. Tosado - “Based on the Berkshire Eagle report pasted in above, you have declared that “allegations of people practicing without licenses, unsanitary conditions and fraud” do not rise to the level where you feel compelled to even hold a hearing, let alone do something useful. Please declare what would rise to the level that compels you to even “hold a hearing” and if that takes people dying at the hands of unlicensed professionals, how many deaths would qualify.”

On July 27, 2018 I followed up with a certified letter. And forwarded that email to Sen. Barbara L’Italien, the head of that Joint Committee and now running for Congress. The response has been, as Tom Duggan says, “crickets”.

Then again, this is not surprising given the evidence repeatedly before our eyes. The State allowed an African man to retain his passport after he was booked

for rape here. He flew out of the country immediately. The State allowed a murder suspect out on bail to remain on bail despite repeatedly violating his bail conditions. That murder suspect then went on to kill a new father the day he was to bring his wife and baby home from the hospital.

The reason these occur repeatedly is because within the State House there is total contempt for the very concept of governance. No state employee is ever haled in even for a hearing, let alone fired for failing to protect the public.

This contempt of course does not originate within the State House. Representatives and Senators bring that contempt in with them when they assume office. Take our José Tosado for instance. Prior to becoming the state rep for Springfield, he was the Vice-Chair of the Police Commission during the time serial-killer Stewart Weldon collected 68 charges on his rap sheet.

The Springfield Republican reported that Springfield Police did not open a case against Weldon for raping a woman even after Chicopee Police informed them of the results from CODIS of the rape kit that had been collected from the victim at Baystate Hospital and that it matched another Springfield case from 2009. Springfield naturally deny that Chicopee informed them but stay mum about why they did nothing about the 2009 complaint.

It is easy to blame front desk cops. But the Weldon crime spree unerringly points to a total failure of leadership at the very top. If Springfield had taken Weldon off the street for that rape and previous crimes, three women would still be alive now. If Chicopee had cared enough to ensure Springfield knew about the CODIS results, three women would still be alive now.

Because the State House will never hold State employees responsible for failing to protect the public, this situation will repeat. And each time it recurs, the State employee’s alleged “privacy” rights will trump the State’s duty to protect the public.

Similarly, the minute the State coerced professionals to obtain a license to continue earning a living, it took on the non-transferable duty of protecting the public from those who now hold a license. The

FAILURE: PAGE 29

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Pope Francis has altered one section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) to include the ‘inadmissibility’ of the death penalty. Many faithful Catholics are in a state of disorientation and confusion because it appears to them that the pope may have changed an essential doctrine of the Church. I believe these fears are unfounded.

First, it is the faith of Catholicism that the Holy Spirit keeps popes from teaching error on a matter of faith or morals when teaching ex cathedra (in his official authority from the chair of St. Peter). Dogmas and defined doctrines cannot be changed and what is intrinsically evil can never become good. However, non-infallible teachings of the Church are subject to alteration due to historical circumstances or accumulated insight, which the Spirit who animates her assists in bringing to light. Capital punishment, in my fallible opinion, falls into this category.

The essential moral element on the death penalty is that the innocent must be protected by the state from unjust aggressors. This is natural law and unchangeable. Hence, if a society does not have the means to protect the innocent they may have recourse to the death penalty. How, when, or if it is administered is a matter of prudential judgment, which is circumstantial and changeable.

The development of this doctrine was first seen in Pope John Paul II’s Evangelium Vitae, and later inserted into the CCC #2267. It read as the following:

“Assuming that the guilty party’s identity and responsibility have been fully determined, the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against an unjust aggressor. If, however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people’s safety from the aggressor, authority should limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person. Today, in fact, as a consequence of the possibilities which the state has for effectively preventing crime, by rendering one who has committed an offense incapable of doing harm - without definitively taking away from him the possibility of redeeming himself - the cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity are very rare, if not practically non-existent.”

Here we see John Paul II respecting the tradition that the death penalty, in theory, may be utilized if necessary to protect the innocent, while pointing out that in modern times these situations “are very rare, if not practically non-existent.” It is from here that Pope Francis goes a little further. After recognizing the Church’s tradition on the death penalty, the new CCC #2267 now states:

“More effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens, but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption...Consequently, the Church teaches, in light of the Gospel, that the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person, and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide.”

Both popes seem to recognize four things: 1) When there is the way and means to keep the innocent safe without killing the criminal, capital punishment should not be considered. 2) Human dignity is not fully extinguished by committing evil heinous acts. 3) Opportunity for rehabilitation should accompany punishment. 4) All nations today should work toward creating the conditions that would make capital punishment unnecessary and illegal.

This teaching has not been met with open arms by all Catholics. Often there is a ‘heart’ problem that accompanies the intellectual disagreement. Being Christian means to be transformed from the inside out by divine life, and this can be measured by one’s response to this command of Christ: “Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you” (Mt 5:44-45).

To get an indication of how many people have internalized this fundamental aspect of Christianity, mention the names of Hitler, Stalin, or if you’re in the presence of a liberal progressive, Trump. Speak of the rapist or murderer in prison, or the molester who attacked women or children. The vile in people’s hearts will quickly become exposed.

There is no question that the innocent must be protected from predators and other criminals, and that justice must be served. But hatred often reigns in our hearts to the point where it’s difficult to discern clearly and objectively what is the best action. Vengeance can easily be interpreted as justice. In this respect, those whose hearts are stuck in neutral with the vice of harboring anger or ‘getting even’ may be helped to spiritual growth by reflecting on the new version of the CCC #2267.

DEATH PENALTY: PAGE 30

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IN THE GROOVE with Cindy Annis

John Lennon Pt. I

Cindy Annis
VALLEY PATRIOT VINYL COLUMNIST

Let's get right into John as there is so much to say and less space to say it. John was born John Winston Lennon on October 9, 1940. He was named after a grandparent and Winston Churchill. His mom was Julia, and his dad was a merchant seaman named Alfred. His dad was away when John was born and he was away a lot during the beginning of John's life, but the checks came into the family and things were cool, until the day the checks stopped and Alfred went AWOL. By the time he finally showed up, about six months later, Julia was already with someone else and told Alfred the marriage was done. There was a lot of nasty family problems and Julia's sister, Mimi, thought social services should get involved and they made Julia give John up to her. Alfred was secretly taking John out of the area but Julia found out and followed. They fought and finally Alfred left and John went back to Mimi's to live. John didn't see Alfred for another twenty years. Mimi and Uncle George kept John and Julia would visit often.

Julia would visit John and would play different types of music for him to enjoy. Of course, Elvis was in there. She also taught John how to play the banjo. His first song was "Ain't That A Shame," by Fats Domino.

As for religion, he was raised Anglican. In school, John passed the 11+ Exam and went to Quarry Bank High School in Liverpool. He didn't do very well with his academics, but he was quite the artist and class comedian. At about the age of 16 Julia bought John his 1st guitar. He had to promise to keep it at her house as her sister wanted John to work harder in school and get off the music for a while.

Julia was accidentally killed after being struck by a car while walking home from visiting John. He was 17 years old. This isn't good for any young boy. He failed his exams, but with the help of his aunt

and his headmaster they got him into the Liverpool College of Art. Because of his unwillingness to conform and his disruptive behavior, he was thrown out before the last year.

John had gotten himself into the "skiffle" craze when he was about 15 years old. He met Paul McCartney and they were in a group called the Quarrymen. They played some skiffle and also tried to play rock and roll. Paul knew George Harrison and we all know about the upper deck bus audition. So, John invited George to join the group. Neither family liked each other as Aunt Mimi thought they were all lower class, and Paul's father thought Paul would get into all kinds of trouble hanging around with this lot. A friend of John's from school was Stuart Sutcliff. He was asked to join the group on bass. So, these four young men were the earliest form of "The Beatles" in 1960.

Hold the phone!! Didn't something else happen in there somewhere? What about Cynthia Powell? Cynthia was a friend of John's from school. She had it bad for John well before the Beatles or the Quarrymen. They dated and got heavily involved. She even went to some of the Hamburg gigs. He found out she was pregnant in 1962. So, he thought they should get married. August 23rd was their marriage date and John was performing that night. With the Beatle craze going on Brian Epstein thought it would be best to keep this under wraps for a while. Julian was born April 8, 1963. John wasn't even there for the birth as he was on tour. He met his son when he was already three days old.

As with Ringo Starr and George Harrison, I am not going further, here, into the Beatles as this column is on John Lennon and The Beatles will be shortly in the future.

John split up with the Beatles in September of 1969. There had been lots of rumors, but John was done and no one knew for almost a year. John had a lot of irons on the coals, though. "How I Won The

LENNON: PAGE 29

Staying Healthy And Active At Any Age

Rick Bellanti
HEALTH & WELLNESS COLUMNIST

We all know how important it is throughout our lives to stay healthy and active, especially as we get older. Keeping active and staying fit can add years to our lives and improve our overall happiness and well-being. We also know now, that it takes between two and three months of a consistent behavior to become a habit. Try not to change too much too soon; pick smaller goals that will be easy to manage and stick to, as these new changes become part of your routine, they will help you be successful in reaching your goals to a healthy you.

Staying active will not only help you live longer as mentioned above, but also has many health benefits, like lowering blood sugar and blood pressure, keeping your bones, muscles and joints healthy and a better night's sleep which may also improve your overall mood. Staying active on a regular basis, even if you are not looking to lose weight or get into shape, will help you maintain these positive health benefits.

You can accomplish this by just incorporating moderate activity for as little as thirty minutes a day, for five days a week. That's right, just two and a half hours a week of exercise, such as a brisk walk, swim or bike ride. You certainly don't need to join a gym and work out for two hours a day, 7 days a week. This type of activity, in short thirty minute increments are easy to fit into the busiest of schedules and maintain. Physical activity also can be a lot of fun if you do activities you enjoy and are active with other people. Being active with family or friends may help you stick to the program and it may help



inspire and motivate one another to get and stay active together.

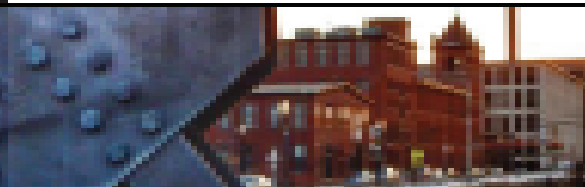
I started out my physical activity by just walking one mile a day for thirty minutes (just five days a week), and gradually made it to two miles a day, now I'm up to three miles a day and it takes me one hour to complete. Walking is the easiest activity to accomplish daily, and you can do it anywhere and you don't need a gym membership to do it. Best of all, walking has many health benefits, it burns calories, lifts your mood and helps strengthens your muscles and bones.

Sticking with a plan to be more active can be a challenge but the small changes you make daily, will improve your overall health so it doesn't matter what you choose to do to be more active, you just want to keep moving. Take the stairs instead of the elevator at work, park your vehicle in the furthest spot at the shopping center and walk or take your children or dog for a walk, even wash your car by hand.

If you want to take it to the next level you can track your physical activity by downloading a fitness app that may let you enter information to help track your

HEALTH: PAGE 29

Attorney Arthur Broadhurst



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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

Merchant vessel, SS Lone Jack, after a the ship was damaged in a torpedo attack. The destroyer escort picked up over sixty survivors and sent salvage parties aboard the stricken ship to keep her afloat.

After Germany surrendered, both Petty Officer Gallant and the USS Hammann sailed for Cuba for additional training operations at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base to get the ship ready for the invasion of mainland Japan. Training of her crew completed, the Hammann transitioned the Panama Canal to join Allied Naval forces in the Pacific. The ship and her crew had defeated the Nazi's and secured freedom in Europe but was needed for the upcoming invasion of mainland Japan.

After Japan surrendered in September of 1945, the USS Hammann was decommissioned at Green Cove Springs, Florida, and she was placed in reserve. The USS Hammann remained out of commission in naval reserve until she was stricken 1972.

Both John's ship, and his military service are mirrors of each other, John was a civilian, a recent graduate of Haverhill Trade, brought in to the Navy after Pearl Harbor. The Hammann, a Destroyer Escort, built in just a few weeks, by shipyard workers in 24/7 shifts for the Navy, to avenge Pearl Harbor. John shared his two most vivid memories of the war with me, foremost was meeting his wife of seventy four years at Hampton Beach, New Hampshire. The other, much more painful, was a good friend from the USS Hammann who drowned on a recreational swim in the Panama Canal, shortly before the war ended.

Typical of the "Greatest Generation", John's fondest memory of his military service during World War II was coming home after VJ Day. He was already married to his wife Ellen Claire Murphy when the war ended, and the couple had a son. Post War, they contributed to the American "baby boom generation" with a family of one son and six daughters.

And just like the rest of his World War II veteran peers, John came home quietly and focused on supporting his family, first as an industrial electrician for CBS Hytron, later he owned a soft drink bottling company, and finally, ending his working life selling real estate. He was clear in speaking to me, that real estate was his favorite occupation. His family today consists of seven children, seventeen grandchildren, twenty seven great grandchildren, and one great, great, grandchild. He and his wife Ellen spent seventy four years together as a married couple.

Similar to every other interview I have done on the heroes of the "Greatest Generation", John said little of the Battle of the

Atlantic, mainly talking about his family. He played the piano and organ, his wife liked to sing, the house was full of music, love, and children. He said marrying his wife was the only smart thing he ever did in his life. John's wife used to say, "there are words in silence". Thought provoking and fitting, because I think that during these interviews, all of these veterans are very silent on their own heroics, but, also very proud of the exploits of their comrades, and what they did as a generation, saving both our nation and the rest of the world from tyranny.

John's interview notes matched the official U.S. Navy records of his ship neatly and perfectly, at ninety eight, his recall of events over seventy five years ago was spot on. Additional thanks to William Wallace, my brother from the Knights of Columbus Catholic Fraternal organization, who was invaluable in setting up this meeting, and very helpful in getting John talking about his U.S. Naval service during and shortly after World War II, his career afterwards, and his family, which was and is John's passion. In the room I interviewed John, you cannot see out his windows. Why? The window panes are covered top to bottom with family photos.

All U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard Enlisted Sailors have BOTH a rating, in John Gallant's case Electrician's Mate First Class, AND a rank, John served our nation with the rank of Petty Officer First Class. A Petty Officer First Class is equal in rank to a U.S. Army or U.S. Marine Staff Sargent, or a U.S. Air Force Technical Sargent. On board U.S. Navy Ships and U.S. Coast Guard Cutters, all seamen have to be tactically (their rank/leadership role) and technically (their rating) competent. Otherwise the ship simply will not sail. Promotions are based on skill as a leader (rank) and technical skill (rating). This system is unique to the maritime services. Leadership and technical skills are equally weighted and sailors cannot neglect either, regardless of the year being 1945 or 2018.

John Cuddy served in the U.S. Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the Navy, he earned a BA in History and an MA in Economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 21 years. If you know a World War II Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com.



TV TALK with BILL CUSHING



Hulu's 'Castle Rock' is Not Just for Stephen King Fans

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

A death row attorney returns to his hometown of Castle Rock, Maine after receiving an unexplained call for help from the local prison in a new psychological mystery series from J.J. Abrams and Stephen King.

'Castle Rock,' Hulu's newest series, has a lot to enjoy. While it may appear that it will primarily appeal to Stephen King fans, that isn't so. In fact, you do not need to have ever read a single word of Stephen King to enjoy this series. But it may enhance the experience.

'Castle Rock' takes place in the fictional Maine town of, you guessed it, Castle Rock. This is the town where many of Stephen King's most famous stories take place. King fans will notice other characters from his stories mentioned in the newspaper clips shown in the opening credits. But the story is not based on any King work, it is specifically scripted for this series.

So far, through the first 3 episodes, the show doesn't try to cram in too many references to past King works, but instead focuses on just a few members of this small, but spooky and mysterious, Maine town. This is a good thing. For the viewers who haven't read much of King, you certainly don't want to get overloaded with references that you may not understand.

The first season of 'Castle Rock' begins with the disappearance and recovery of a young boy in 1981. Fast forward to current day and that young boy, Henry Deaver (Andre Holland), is now a defense attorney working in Texas who returns home after getting a mysterious

anonymous phone call from Shawshank Penitentiary. When he returns he finds his old next door neighbor Molly (Melanie Lynskey), his mother Ruth (Sissy Spacek), her friend and former Castle Rock Sheriff Alan Pangborn (Scott Glenn), and a few other locals who somehow will connect to Henry's reason for coming. Bill Skarsgard, who most recently played Pennywise the clown in the recent film adaption of King's famous novel IT, plays the most pivotal man to Henry's return, a prisoner at the penitentiary.

Castle Rock's appeal is that it has a dark mystery, and a darker evil, at the center of the small town. And like most of King's stories, the parts that are the most interesting and intriguing are found not just in the mystery but in how the characters involved in it react to the events, how they treat one another, and also how their actions are judged by the other characters in the story.

'Castle Rock' is a must see series for fans of Stephen King, but it's also a must see series for fans of good TV and fans of dark and compelling mysteries.

'Castle Rock' premiered July 25th on Hulu. New episodes are released every Wednesday through September 12th.

If you have any questions about TV you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.

Follow me on Twitter @ BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion.



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Jesus Replaced a Comma with a Period!

Peter Larocque
PAYING ATTENTION COLUMNIST

Greetings my friends, I am so thankful that I get to write about the Goodness of our God! Just the other day I was perusing through my face-book news feed and saw a discussion by some of my friends about God’s Justice and why we are not seeing it with the blistering speed as we would like today. The thought that came to my mind after reading all the comments was something I heard watching the television show “Blue Bloods”. The thought is, were they really looking for Justice or Vengeance?

There is a verse in scripture that speaks to this in Psalm 89:14, “Justice and judgment are the habitation [Foundation] of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.” The foundation of God’s Throne is built on Justice and Judgment, meaning without them whole world would dismantle. But it is mercy [Grace or loving kindness] and truth that He has before His face. We must keep in mind that our ways and thinking are not God’s way. Isaiah 55:8-9, says, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” God lives outside time therefore He isn’t limited to 24/7 like we are. So, we just have to trust that He knows what He is doing and His Justice will prevail.

King David said in Psalm 18:29, “O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.” God is Good and He will take care of us, there is no need to stress of stuff out of our paid grade! For us Bible readers who have read the end of the Book, we Born-again Christians win!

Then what or whom is God waiting for? 2 Peter 3:9, says, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” God’s heart is that nobody should perish, this is His mercy and grace, and loving kindness that’s continually before His face.

So, to all my friends who seem to be looking for God’s Justice or Judgment over the behavior of this world, let’s take a breath and take note of the tone of our discussions on social media. We don’t want to add confusion to anyone.

A similar situation took place in the early Christian Church which is recorded in Acts 15, here is how they handled it. We pick up the story in Acts 15:24, “Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting [undermine, unsettle] your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:” The Leadership’s responded in kindness which we read in Acts 15:23-28, “And they

wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;”

God’s desire was to not burden His people with a wrong message that would lead to unsettled souls! No different today! Why have discussions about something that we have no control over? God’s time table is not ours! Christians calling for the justice and judgment of God on people or Countries is foolish! What we should be telling people about is the Goodness of God and how He loved the world and gave us Jesus Christ our Savior! It’s the Goodness and Gentleness of God which leads to repentance, not His wrath. There will be plenty of time for that in the future.

Let’s Do what Jesus Did!
Luke 4:18-21, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”

Have you ever read Isaiah where this scripture came from? Isaiah 61:1-2, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;” In Isaiah where there is a comma, Jesus put a period and stopped reading! Jesus never said, “and the day of vengeance of our God”. Jesus closed the book after the comma.

Friends, Pastors and Leaders let’s do the same as Jesus did. The Day of Vengeance will come, but Praise God, not just yet!

Love to all of You and God Bless!
peterlarocque@hotmail.com

Robin’s Kitty Corner

New Pet

Robin Desmet
VALLEY PATRIOT KITTY COLUMNISTS

Your neighbor’s cat has kittens and they are weaned and ready to be adopted. You hold one of the wiggling furballs for a minute and instantly you fall in love. You weren’t really looking for a kitten, but before you know it you find yourself at the pet store purchasing kitten food, a litter box, and an assortment of toys. It is easy to get caught up in the excitement of a new pet, but before you decide to take this little life home, there are some things you need to think about.

Do you have pets at home already? If you have a 14 year old cat at home he may not appreciate the energy that is about to come his way. A new kitten, however cute, will likely add stress and discord to a household with older pets. Maybe you have a 1 year old cat that could use a bit of companionship while you are at work. In this case, a kitten probably makes sense. No matter the situation, think about the pets you already have and ask yourself if it is really the right decision to add another animal to the household.

Are you a renter? Do you live in a condominium? It is important to check with your landlord or condo association and find out if pets are even allowed. Your landlord may charge you an extra fee every month if you choose to have an animal, or you may find yourself losing your security deposit if your animal causes damage to the property. Condominiums have very specific policies when it comes to animals. You may be



limited to a certain number of animals or to a certain size or type of animal. It is best to check with your landlord or condo association before you adopt an animal.

Can you afford another animal? That kitten may be advertised as “free”, but there is really no such thing as a free kitten. If you bring an animal into your house it is going to cost you. Beyond the basics of spay/neuter, vaccinations, and food, there are other inevitable costs associated with pets. All animals will require veterinary care at one time or another. There is just no predicting accidents and illness. Veterinary care can be quite expensive and even if you have pet insurance, it will not cover all of your costs.

Do you have other family members at home? Even if you plan on being the primary caretaker, it is important to think about everyone’s needs. A new pet will likely impact everyone in the home. Maybe you have household members that don’t want another pet. Maybe someone in the house is allergic. You may have young children or elderly parents that you need to consider.

Lastly, do you have enough time to properly care for your pet? Are you willing and able to give it the love and attention it deserves? Pets are not obligatory-they are a choice. If your pet is going to spend every day in the basement or in a crate, is it really the right decision to get one? Animals can live for a long time. Before you commit to bringing a new animal home, put some thought into it. Make sure it is the right decision for you, your family, and for the animal.

For questions/comments please contact me at: Robinjd@comcast.net



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Property Sales, Foreclosures for JULY, 2018 in Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, & Methuen. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, address, and price.)



Northern Essex Registry of Deeds
M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

Pulte Homes Of New England LLC,
Henry L & Theresa F Poirier, \$484,995, 1 Francis Dr Unit 213
Rut A Tarbox/Ruth A Zaimes, Madhan Kumar Kumar Maria Sebastian & Anu Parvathi Kumar, \$457,000, 403 South Main St
Timothy W Gwynne, Laman Tasch, \$239,500, 10 Maple Ave Unit 10-3
Sarah E Gilbert Tr & Sarah E Gilbert Revocable Trust of 2013, Vijaya S Venkata-dass, \$610,000, 276 Chandler Rd
Krista Hatem, Lucia A Dasilva, \$205,000, 10B Washington Park Dr Unit 5
Vincent & Tiffany Morrisette, Michael John & Jeanmarie Paulo, \$1,280,000, 16 Somerset Dr
Zizhong Li & Youwen Xu, Charles R & Jacqueline F Salit, \$458,000, 1 Powder Mill Sq Unit 403A
Joseph R & Katherine S Maloney, Ryo & Ai Takeuchi, \$500,000, 100 Red Spring Rd
John Schroeder/John C Schroeder & Jessica Schroeder, Michael J & Rebecca M Anoli, \$687,000, 4 Dorset Cir
Bruce H & Bethany M Panzier Gilboard, Anjaneya K & Shivani Singh, \$855,000, 9 Phoenix Pl
Jeff & Andrea Korzon, Wanting Zhang & Dong Wei, \$610,000, 8 Beacon St
Bruce L & Maureen A Belbin, Janet R Whelan, \$520,000, 204 Chandler Rd
Michael R & Jessica V Digiorgio, Michael Joseph & Megan Tuttle McGuinn, \$1,085,000, 7 Harper Cir
Nancy K Jeton 2006 Revocable Trust & Nancy K Jeton Tr, Michael R & Jessica Digiorgio, \$1,125,000, 35 Whittier St & 57 Chestnut St
Tracy L S Patane, Krzysztof M Nowak, \$450,000, 4 Beech Cir
Chunsheng Song & Yuanlin Dong, Kepei Sun & Chonghui Huang, \$205,000, 237 North Main St Unit 10
Philip J & Elizabeth M Derendorf, Bryan M & Kara B Cedorchuk, \$575,000, 19 Canterbury St
Daniel & Amanda Grzywacz, Mark & Caitlin Kudlate, \$550,000, 20 Enmore St
James & Patricia Gillette, Benson Omoregbe & Anita Lot, \$690,000, 9 Dairy Ln
Michael C & Stacy H Gillis, Evan & Jaime Dasilva, \$746,500, 99 Elm St
Thomas R & Judith K Hudkins, Reid C McCarthy & Gabriela A Hernandez, \$490,000, 151 Elm St
Victoria T & Ronald A Sartschev, Kevin E & Meghan E Ring, \$980,000, 4 Wyncrest Cir
Bunker Family Irrevocable Trust & David F Bunker Tr & Stephanie M Wright Tr, Joseph E & Julie K Patterson, \$495,000, 9 Korinthian Wy
Jeffrey M Buono, Blake W & Heidi K Helveston, \$645,000, 10 Bannister Rd
Daniel Rose & Lawrence White, Hung V Le & Hang Vu, \$530,000, 34 Rutgers Rd
Gerhard F & Silke Schneiders, Sridhar Kadambala & Tapasya Srivastava, \$1,210,000, 4 Glen Meadow Rd
William F & Margaret E Green, Eric M Graff & Kelly R Champagne, \$849,900, 21 Algonquin Ave
Joseph F & C Della Sweeney, Manjot & Shonika Deol, \$1,082,500, 6 Carter Ln
Yvon Cormier Tr & CA Investment Trust, Gerri B & Jeff A Weiss, \$1,225,000, 25 Crenshaw Ln Unit 15-2
David Prater & Cynthia J Bogatka, Nicholas & Meghan Burke, \$720,000, 84 Bailey Rd
Andrea L Carlin Tr & Andrea L Carlin

Trust-2013, Patrick R & Courtney A Barker, \$1,425,000, 12 Buttonwood Dr
Mark F & Amy Ranalli, Patcha LLC, \$1,250,000, 7 Endicott Rd
Nicholas & Diane Pramas, Travis & Kristy Baker, \$785,000, 2 Garfield Ln East
William L & Elaine M Trepicchio, Jeff M & Jennifer Buono, \$699,000, 21 Abbot Bridge Dr
Jeremy & Nadia Barsamian, Sudhir & Rekha Murthy, \$950,000, 14 Apache Ave
Brett & Amanda D Macquarrie, James A Jr & Amanda Smith, \$860,000, 1 Seminole Cir
Yvon Cormier Tr & CA Investment Trust, Darlene F Pellegrini, \$1,225,000, 39 Crenshaw Ln Unit 13-3
Frank J Caci, Antoinette Arguso, \$89,000, Unit D1-6
Eljo L Harper & Lawrence Clifford, Steven Garten, \$345,000, 16 Clark Rd
Taylor Cove Development LLC, Victoria A Boylan, \$782,129, 10 Taylor Cove Dr Unit 5
69 North St. LLC, Ahmed Bellahafiane, \$199,800, 18 Boardwalk Dr Unit 18
Peter S & Margaret M Bradshaw, Ru Wen Zhang & Li Hua Chen, \$851,000, 4 Sioux Cir
Elizabeth C Miller, BM Raihanuzzaman, \$230,900, 6 Longwood Dr Unit 304
Christopher J Koch Ind Tr & Michael J Koch Tr & Koch Family Realty Trust, Shay Real Estate Development LLC, \$530,000, 71 Osgood St
Efraim Roe Kozorovitsky, Scot & Jill Reynolds, \$700,000, 11 Arcadia Rd
Xin Li, Jared Spence McBrine, \$336,500, 197 High St Unit 12
John R & Rosalia G Coombe, Duc Long Nguyen & Thi Huyen Thanh Dinh, \$490,000, 3 Buxton Ct
Albert P & Claire R Vandooren, Ranjeet Kuberkar & Renuka Sonak, \$450,000, 151 Greenwood Rd
Glen F Petty Tr & Judith F Daggett Tr & Petty Family Trust, David B Gunzburger & Devin K Parr, \$615,000, 10 Talbot Rd
James M & Karen M Coggins, Daniel A Calenda & Nada Soussou, \$564,900, 29 Michael Wy Unit 32
Vey Family Revocable Trust & Allison P Vey Tr, Qian Wang & Duanxiang Xu, \$658,000, 4 Bridle Path Rd
Stephen J & Ellen J Travers, Patricia A & Paul F Vey & Allison P Vey, \$1,040,000, 8 Spencer Ct
Donita J McDonald & Michael C McDonald Trs & Donita J McDonald Family Trust, Christian & Patricia Moreno Tozzi, \$960,000, 6 Spencer Ct
Robert Russell Witt Est & Robb Witt Est & Corey Belobrow, Jason McFarland & Erica Kenney, \$647,500, 56 1/2 Summer St
Kathleen M Laramie, Pravin N & Sangeeta R Nair, \$699,900, 3 Cailleigh Ct Unit 3
K & B High Plain Realty Trust & Kenneth M Hyslip Jr Tr & Bonnie R Hyslip Tr, Mark E & Suzanne D Saindon, \$1,345,000, 5 Avella Cir
Robert L & Judith E Doesschate, Kenneth Hyslip Jr Tr & Bonnie Hyslip Tr & K & B High Plain Realty Trust, \$1,399,000, 22 Muirfield Cir Unit 5-3
Mary J Baird, Michelle M & George Kandilou, \$510,000, 126 High St
Richard M Sandman & Susan Delarm Sandman, Jeffrey W & Andrea J Korzon, \$955,000, 11 Spencer Ct
Bernard J Savord Tr & Beverly M Guiry Tr & Savord-Guiry Realty Trust, Robert & Angela B Redfern, \$530,000, 7 Marion Ave
LeBlanc Family Realty Trust & Romeo A & Florence M LeBlanc Trs, Colin T & Caro-

lyn Ahern, \$755,000, 4 Swan Ln Unit 1-1
US Bank NA Tr, Lucia Fosco, \$167,000, 60 Colonial Dr Unit 60-2
Jerry E Lundstrom, Xin Hui Zheng & Xiu Chen & Xinhui Zheng, \$525,000, 5 Haven Dr
Christopher J & Melissa H O'Brien, Adam M & Denise N Carrier, \$526,500, 39 Boston Rd
69 North St. LLC, Maria Rossetti, \$199,800, 31 Boardwalk Dr Unit 31
Tong Guang Zhang & Charlene Xiaoling Liang, Michael T & Amanda J Phillips, \$390,000, 6 Burnham Rd
Michael A Hitchko & Louise M McDonald Hitchko, Steven Thaddeus Palmer & Alice Eubank Palmer, \$756,000, 9 College Cir
Thomas P Mulligan & Sarah S Lee, Andre Machado & Hae Young Kim, \$665,000, 25 Juniper Rd
DC-15 Shattuck Road LLC, Andover Technology Partners LLC, \$15,000,000, 15 Shattuck Rd
Christopher Clark & Mary E Polanco, Michael S & Nancy J Rottman, \$679,900, 16 Burton Farm Dr
Joan M & Conrad P Roberge, Thomas P Mulligan & Sarah S Lee, \$873,000, 15 Granli Dr
Yvon Cormier Tr & CA Investment Trust, William C & Doris Barrett Trs & Barrett Family Trust, \$1,325,000, 41 Crenshaw Ln Unit 13-2
Kenneth W & Ellen E Davidson, James Floyd Coble Jr & Holly E Hall Coble, \$687,500, 140 Chestnut St
Pravin N & Sangeeta R Nair, Kehan Wang & Siyu Chen, \$700,000, 38 Taylor Cove Dr
James F & Christine D Moulton, Stephen E & Suzannah C Anthony, \$729,000, 7 Lancaster Pl
Pamela J Ward, Martin A & Kathleen M Serrano, \$590,000, 6 Lincoln Cir
Colin & Christine M Beauchemin, Charles T & Alyssa R Kelly, \$765,000, 6 Furnari Farm Ln
Jeffrey C & Nicole M Salowe, Paul A & Erin P Olsen, \$712,000, 6 Tilton Ln
James L Landry Jr & Kimberly R Landry, Merrimack College, \$600,000, 15 Woodcliff Rd

LAWRENCE

Rueben D Fuentes, Luis M Fuentes Silva, \$353,000, 18 Graichen Ter
Dolores M Royale, Carol C Monaco, \$65,500, 264 East Haverhill St Unit 6
Assist Realty Group LLC, Macdane Iran-dor, \$157,000, 272 E Haverhill St Unit 6
Johanne A Frias, Juan L Lopez, \$210,000, 46 Park St
Marcos J Diaz & Aileen Domitiriz, Aline Pouv & Pepe Garcia, \$286,000, 100 Sylves-

ter St
Modesto & Marie E Polanco, Jocelyn Pacheco-Detorres, \$315,000, 6 Dorchester St
Douglas C Gage & Jennifer L Brown/Jennifer L Gage, Flor Maria Vargas, \$260,000, 156 Gilbert St
EBM Properties LLC, Rebecca Estevez, \$149,400, 2 Greenwood St Unit A
Carmen J Olivo, Carlos Luna Vasquez, \$95,000, 123 Park St
France C Turgeon Tr & France Turgeon 2013 Revocable Trust, Ever Javier, \$350,000, 9 Carleton St
Gisela A Mercedes, Delfin Rosado, \$379,000, 12 Boston St
Darien Ramirez & Reynaldo Rodriguez, Clarissa Delacruz & Matilde Manzueta, \$388,000, 36-38 Perry Ave
RJJM LLC, Paola O Rivera & Odeida Mendieta, \$350,000, 32 Storrow St
Osvaldo A Salomon, Sergio Fernandez, \$60,592, 79 Summer St Unit 1
Annie E Marin Lopez, Miguel A Fernandez, \$340,000, 86 Andover St
Gloria Menjivar, Moises Medina, \$415,000, 64-66 Kendall St
Helmut Floesser, Diana Maria & Francia A Castillo, \$345,000, 10 Durso Ave
Pamela F Belanger & Debra Gabriel, Daniel P & Coleen B Cuddy, \$220,000, 4 Hale St
Barry M & June W Kellner, Julio Pena & Carmen D Paulino Depena, \$430,000, 592-594 Lowell St
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Jai Khodiyar LLC, VN Realty Trust LLC, \$425,000, 53-59 South Broadway
Coque Realty LLC, Adlerlin Isaia Gomez-Almanzar & Marino Lantigua, \$445,000, 12 Doyle St
Jordan R Ryan, Wilson R Javier, \$200,000, 4 Perry Ave Unit 4
Luisa Polanco, Anndy Rafael Diaz, \$210,000, 339 Water St Unit 339
Jose L & Zoila Lora Marquez Tr & Marquez Realty Trust, Manuel J Javier, \$430,000, 159-185 Myrtle St
Deborah G Croteau, Najwa Y Azzi, \$369,900, 43 Jefferson St
Carlos Ruiz, Maria C Mejia, \$115,000, 90 Beacon St Unit 4
Cruz A Adames, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center Inc, \$247,000, 3 Fulton St
Michael Hubbard & Andrea S Fugere, Raphael Desravines & Magdala Damas, \$371,000, 1 Glenwood Dr
Durso Properties LLC, I & H Realty Associates LLC, \$630,000, 8 Green St

REAL ESTATE: NEXT PAGE

Franklyn Veloz
President

Cell: 978.457.5547
Off: 978.984.7171
Fax: 978.984.5573

VELOZ Auto Group

17 Massachusetts Ave.
North Andover, MA
01845

WWW.VELOZAUTO.COM
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Edward Disla, Jose B & Carmen Matta, \$415,000, 92-94 Nesmith St
Deutsche Bank National Trust Co Tr, Silverio Vasquez, \$315,000, 6-8 Hawley St
Brian R Basiliere, Leonor Aquino Del Orbe & Juan A Jean, \$405,000, 161-163 Sanborn St
JMF Realty LLC, Josanelys Vargas Gutierrez & Roselia D Rodriguez, \$207,000, 115 Margin St Unit B
Katheryn E Hickey-Scott & Claudia Scott, Jason W Rourke, \$300,000, 24 Montrose Ave
Reyes Tapia, Bethy Elizabeth Viera, \$405,000, 33 Tyler St
Peter C Decotis Jr, Martin Infante & Carmen M Ortega, \$119,000, 312 Water St Unit 15
Richard R Sirois & John M Sirois, Lester A Granillo-Morales, \$385,000, 56 Kingston St
Mary L Crook & Frank Michael Lavallo Est & Frank M Lavallo Est, Araceli A Merced & Grisell Carattini David, \$291,000, 8 Linehan St
Julia I & Jose D Silverio, Jose Gell, \$200,000, 92 Eutaw St
Diomedes Ortiz, Engels M Ortiz & Elvis M Taveras, \$437,000, 62-64 Boxford St
Ruben D Javier, Justina Mercedes-Mota & Jonathan S Guzman Mercedes, \$273,000, 39 Lynn St
Sui V Thu Tr & Muoi Truong Tr & Thu Truong 2013 Trust, Jose A Villa & Arelis M & Carina Y Espinal, \$448,000, 505 Lowell St
Robert L DiNicola & North Shore Reciev-ership & Development LLC, Irene Tarshi Tr & Supreme Limited Realty Trust, \$443,000, 594-596 Howard St
Juan E Montes De Oca Jr, Mario Opont & Dacheny Fidelia, \$295,000, 17 Patton St
Tumay A Ferrao, Ruddy Ortiz & Maria Nunez De Ortiz & Ruth Ortiz, \$346,000, 233-235 Bailey St
Jean N Acevedo, Maria E Betances & Luis R Perez, \$325,000, 16 Woodland Ct
Daher Group Inc, Daysi Sanchez & Fre-mia A Avalo, \$452,000, 181-183 Willow St
Johanne A Frias, Apex Landing LLC, \$400,000, 36 Manchester St
Dumais Family Realty Trust & Daniel Dumais Tr, Rayene Paneto Goncalves, \$474,000, 114-116 Jennings St
Minda Shaheen, Laidy Polanco, \$430,000, 10-12 Grove St
Maureen McCarthy, Antonia Cruz, \$324,000, 4 Stevens Ave
Kevin Ferrabelo & Maria Dasilva, Felix Martinez & Lizandra M Estrada, \$312,000, 34 Hamilton St

William Olivieri, Leocadio I Castillo Caraballo, \$373,000, 35 Park St
Arthur J Shimer Ind Tr & Phyllis P Shimer Ind Tr & Shimer Family Revocable Trsut, Carlos I DeLeon Tellez, \$425,000, 22-24 Cypress Ave
Nicholas M Francis, Yudelka M Perez, \$280,000, 27 Sargent St
Best Choice Abatement & Demolition Inc, Manuel Joaquin Tr & Aurora Realty Trust, \$250,000, 112 Haverhill St
Francisco A & Nelkis Ventura, Tatiana Moquete, \$152,000, 312 Water St Unit 41
James C O'Connor Est, James D O'Connor, \$60,000, 12 Vandergrift St
David Roy & Cheryl A Sullivan, Hector R Acevedo & Carlos A Vega, \$266,000, 38 Sylvester St
Stephen A & Janet M Consoli, Eddy M Richards, \$410,000, 125 Osgood St
Hang T Nguyen, Thuong V Nguyen, \$245,000, 56 Amesbury St
Thu T & Thu Thi Le, My Realty Trust LLC, \$400,000, 298F Lawrence St
Gaetan Morin, Ricardo Acevedo, \$296,000, 345 South Broadway
Lindsey Herbert/Lindsey Beauregard & Jeremy Beauregard, Eric M Smith, \$312,000, 12 Beresford St
Sapienza Family Nominee Trust & Louise Scala Tr, Mirna J Rivera, \$235,000, 217 Ferry St
Santos Ortega Reyes, Daisy M Gonzalez & Angle Luis Breton & Maria Concepcion Abreu, \$430,000, 63 Milton St
Joseph R Ruiz, Luis A Santiago, \$243,000, 9 Vandergrift St
METHUEN

Tony Gauthier, 65 Mystic St-Unit-11 LLC, \$105,000, 65 Mystic St Unit 11
Julio & Celia Morales, Ramon Founder Urena, \$390,000, 77-79 Oakland Ave
Atlantic Group Development LLC, Pie Hill Holdings LLC, \$290,000, Old Ferry Rd
Toll MA IV LLC, Bruce M & Mary Ann Wilcox, \$641,691, 18 Sequoia Dr Unit 47
Jenna L Vardensky & Addison J Ward, David J Ball & Clare K Curran-Ball, \$250,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 7-201
Steven L & Susan J Picardi, Michael G & Michele James, \$520,000, 38 Hideaway Ln
Richard C & Patricia E Couture, Ronald Joseph Marcucella, \$385,000, 34 Temple Dr
Ryan & Rebecca McCarty, Fiordaliza & Johnny C Gonzalez, \$380,000, 183 Bay State Rd
Richard & Nora Dipanfilo, Brian Connor, \$480,000, 10 Marshall St
Lewis D Grasso, Endy Y Gomez & Clau-dia C Theado, \$120,000, 485 Lowell St

Patrick M McKallagat Est & Stephen T & Patricia A McKallagat, Jonathan & Jennelle Fraser, \$285,000, 6 Victory Dr Unit 2
Juana I Gonzalez, Georgina Y Pena, \$236,000, 5 Park Ave Unit 1
Eric T Palmer, Taylor & Janelle Obrien, \$365,000, 3 Tyler St
Joseph P Monterisi, Luong Tran & Huong Thi Mai, \$221,000, 22 Chadwick St
Scott Geddis & Elizabeth A Licari, Roudeline Guerine, \$369,900, 124 Haverhill St
Peter B & Dolores A Butterfield, Spencer Butterfield & Jeffrey Rubino, \$259,000, 61 Riverdale St
Toll MA IV LLC, Stephen P & Patricia A Pedi, \$593,047, 25 Sequoia Dr Unit 117
Gail Lollis, Eric N Dooley, \$302,000, 11 Lincoln St
Brian R Sheehan & Katelyn M Costello/Katelyn M Sheehan, Brian E Reese & Ran-dall F Reese, \$307,500, 50 Arlington St
Anthony M Messina & Frank J Messina & Carmelina L Messina Life Est, Dennis & Jane Szegedy, \$205,000, 45 Christopher Dr Unit 119
Joseph P & Rhonda M Cassaro/Rhonda M Rongone, Fredy Almanzar-Thomas, \$399,000, 108 Temple Dr
Toll MA IV LLC, Yang Chang & Lanjue Shen, \$674,822, 23 Sequoia Dr Unit 116
Brent H Tucker & Helen M Tubrett, Jeannedy Paul & Maude Destin, \$387,000, 3 Jayson Rd
Karen & Victor Dahne, Hermel J & Ni-cole F Goulet, \$585,000, 5 Coachman Ln
Dunateo Investments Inc, Gustavo A Delacruz Torres & Laura Virginia Cuevas, \$265,000, 1 Elsmere Ave
William L Horan III, Kelly Horan, \$364,000, 130 Bridle Path Ln
Richard A & Karen P Fluet Tr & Fluet 2016 Trust, Alexa M Leclerc & Michael R Malagodi Jr, \$475,000, 102 Bridle Path Ln
Bemorini Realty LLC, Diverse Real Es-tate LLC, \$381,000, 2 Charles St
Hung Tran, Huy Trinh & Duong Dinh, \$360,000, 32 Frye Rd
Ross J Weinberg, Melinda & Aaron Vandekoppel, \$324,000, 16 Reservoir St
Richard A Buco Jr & Cynthia G Buco, Randy O Rivera & Marta O Samayoa-Lo-pe, \$385,000, 12 Cypress Ave
Frank Rondinelli II & Kim M Robichaud/Kim Rondinelli, Sugeiry Ruiz, \$420,000, 42 Ridge Rd
David B & Sarah Chenault, Carl T Braden & Kosal Saren, \$380,000, 89 North Lowell St
Daniel Desmarais, Scott Grande/Scott D Grande & Cheryl Grande, \$410,000, 10-12 Ruskin Ave
Graceann Eager & Ronald J Ronsiv-alle & Robert Ronsivalli, Cruz A Adames,

\$330,000, 204 Oak St
George F & Cheri L Murphy, William Riggins & Nathalie Louis, \$380,000, 4 Weymouth Ave
Jeffrey P Divoll & Kenneth M Divoll, Jef-frey Divoll Jr, \$250,000, 160 Howe St
Beverly L Lees Tr & Beverly L Lees Re-vocable Trust of 2011, Cassandra Deangelis, \$264,900, 45 Washington St Unit 23
Kevin T Dore, Corey J & Christy R Coon-radt, \$360,000, 23 Lyndale Ave
Sara DeFusco & Margaret M Cusack, John A & Marianne B Hayek, \$462,900, 22 Meetinghouse Rd
Tony King, Joseph E Marino III & Steph-anie A Marino, \$344,000, 55 Derry Rd
Mary M Dowd, Margaret Gachohu, \$395,000, 23 Cochrane Cir
Patricia L Keenan Est & Armand M Hyatt, Mark Mastrangelo & Randall F Hart, \$150,000, 48 Milk St
Toll MA IV LLC, William L Horan & Karen M Timothy, \$584,999, 27 Sequoia Dr Unit 118
Toll MA IV LLC, Robert & Lucille Van-dette, \$746,681, 81 Pine Tree Dr Unit 69
Eric & Kira Maloney/Kira Bourque, An-drew P Graham, \$379,000, 6 Tyler St
Amy M Apkarian, Paul D Roux Jr & Cait-lin A Greene, \$174,900, 48 High St Unit 17
Toll MA IV LLC, LeBlanc Family Realty Trust & Romeo & Florence LeBlanc Trs, \$686,905, 11 Sequoia Dr Unit 110
Joan Wheelis, Pedro E Clemente, \$330,000, 164 Lowell St
Thiago Q Dasilva, Ramiro A Queiroz, \$450,000, 10 Pand y Ln
Brad R Cadieux, Alexis Sime, \$480,000, 214-216 Oakland Ave
Wendy J Marchand, Tracy Tammaro, \$323,000, 3 Memorial Dr
Edge Real Estate Investments LLC, Kevin P Silva, \$360,000, 47 Laurel Ave
Michael Mahoney Tr & Margaret Mahoney Tr & 2 Dunrobin Circle Realty Trust, Vincent J Cosco Jr & Mary A Cosco, \$587,000, 2 Dunrobin Cir Unit 80
Afzal A Mohammad & Sumaira Afzal, Davis Van Nguyen & Linh Vong , \$305,000, 59 Nevins Rd Unit 1
John J Catanzaro Tr & C J & J Catanzaro Realty Trust, Frantzie Luc, \$450,000, 65 Tudor ST
John J Warford Jr & Jessica Warford, Julio E Andujar, \$300,000, 16 Alvin St
Ralph E Copeland Est & Kelly Copeland & Ralph E Copeland Sr Est & Arthur Cope-land & Ralph Copeland Est, Emily Griffin & Nicholas Nackley, \$335,000, 7 Butternut Ln
Christine M Brunelle, Leonard J Gendron III & Jessica L Gallagher, \$260,000, 11 Leah Cir Unit 173
Alcro Development LLC, Dorothy J For-

REAL ESTATE: NEXT PAGE



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REAL ESTATE: FROM 28

tune, \$195,000, 32 Stone Castle Dr Unit 19
 Karen M Orfaly & Terence Reardon, Eb-
 erto A Hernandez, \$417,000, 79 Chippy Ln
 Jason Mathews, Colleen D Kelly & Peter
 B Sannizzaro Jr, \$276,000, 46 Howe St
 Ruben D & Elianet Barrio, Tomas & Car-
 men Montero, \$390,000, 24 Woodland St
 Michael A Rotondo Jr & Brian P Rotondo
 Jr, Abdessamad Chaoui, \$355,000, 2A
 Campbell St
 Richard A Coco & Charles E Farrington,
 Matthew C Forti, \$573,000, 30 High St
 Riverside Drive LLC, Ellen M Cataldo,
 \$242,500, 34 Burnham Rd Unit 205
 Daniel Johnson, Walter A & Kricia F Mar-
 tinez, \$331,000, 884 Riverside Dr
 Deborah M & James J Palmisano, Alex-
 ander Peter Rarog, \$405,000, 53 Rolling
 Ridge Ln
 Steven & Michelle Jankowski, Ibrahim E
 & Sloine I Geha, \$475,000, 610 Prospect St
 Christian G & Robyn J Max, Christian
 Albano, \$435,000, 8 Clatyton Ave
 Marilyn Gomez, Martin O & Seyah A
 Abada, \$459,000, 148 Old Ferry Rd
 Alexander G & Grace M Markauskas,
 Suzanne J Casey, \$250,000, 1 Riverview
 Blv Unit 1-004
 Shamesh LLC, AHHC Realty LLC,
 \$950,000, 160 Merrimack St
 Christopher & Denise J Bergeron, Robert
 & Nikki Stein & Jacqueline Kanellos,
 \$350,000, 87 East St

NORTH ANDOVER

Gwen C Watters Tr & Melanie J Feintuch
 Trust, Patricia M Fritz, \$520,000, 44 Cider-
 press Wy Unit TH7-1
 Marianne Decologero Tr & 52 Farrwood
 Drive Unit 3 Realty Trust, Jennifer Beck-
 with, \$190,000, 52 Farrwood Ave Unit 3
 Atlantis Investments LLC, Jason F &
 Lauren M Smith, \$365,000, 44-46 Autran
 Ave Unit 1
 RDM 1099 Salem Street LLC, Sandra F
 & William E Sipsey, \$770,000, 1087 Salem
 St
 20 Johnson Circle Realty Trust & Bonnie
 Feola Tr & Kenneth & Linda Campbell
 Tr, Joseph G Bruno & Courtney Knight,
 \$660,000, 20 Johnson Cir
 Yim Ling Tong, Nilay Mukherjee,
 \$327,000, 4 Harvest Dr Unit 304
 31 Woodbridge Road Realty Trust &
 Kenneth R Reader Ind Tr & Reader Family
 Irrevocable Trust of 2009, Paul & Kelley
 MacDonald, \$475,000, 31 Woodbridge Rd
 Abram & Ludmila Bekker, Paul F Weidel
 Jr & Denise M Treacy, \$449,900, 50 Tolland
 Rd
 Steven A & Sharon R Corben, Kent A &
 Jane C Lyons, \$885,000, 125 Coventry Ln
 Naijing Luo/Naijing Luo & Gu Qing,
 Shannon F Slaughter & Eric P Delorey,
 \$689,000, 174 Weyland Cir
 Deborah A Hogan Tr & Hogan II Realty
 Trust, Jennifer L Cole, \$255,000, 148 Main
 St Unit A-413
 Kevin Begley, Lawrence F & Mary Eliza-
 beth Hancock, \$385,000, 88 Millpond
 David R Konze, Christopher R Lippi,
 \$197,500, 80 Edgelawn Ave Unit 5
 Krishna & Krishnakumar Rengasamy
 & Swathi Jamburi, Ishan & Megha Shah,
 \$414,000, 46 Camden St Unit 1
 John J & Jean P Enright, Derek & Alexan-
 dra Howell, \$515,000, 55 Camden St
 Peter H & Lisa H Reed, Deana N & Sean
 P Gilbride, \$723,400, 92 Bonny Ln
 Sean P & Deana N Gilbride, Anne Dowl-
 ing, \$495,000, 24 Norman Rd
 Bharat R Gandhari & Sirisha Rani
 Bhumireddy, Peter D Guza, \$573,000, 32

Hawthorne Pl
 Jacqueline M Kariuki & Joseph Kiere,
 Oleg Zgircu, \$240,000, 50 fernview Ave
 Unit 50FV-2
 Mark A Greenaway & Nancy W Green-
 away Est/Nancy Greenaway Est, Raquel
 Lorenzetti, \$305,000, 4 Harvest Dr Unit 203
 Oneal Rowe & Natalie M Fernandez,
 Yenn A Gonzalez Baez & Fray Luis Rosario,
 \$702,500, 585 South Bradford St
 Christopher Madigan & Melanie Garger,
 Raychel S & Peter J Mahoney, \$789,900, 96
 Sugarcane Ln
 Christopher A Hanson & Lisa N Hanson,
 Christopher Madigan & Melanie Garger/
 Melanie M Garger, \$840,000, 84 Sugarcane
 Ln
 Yiduo Hu Tr/Yiduo Hu Life Est & Yi
 Huang Tr/Yi Huang Life Est & BHI Trust,
 Bahar & Mehmet Hergunsel, \$535,000, 32
 Empire Dr
 Clifford Leavitt Jr & Monica Leavitt, Wil-
 liam J & Kathryn J Giguere, \$400,000, 13
 Glenwood St
 Laura A & Laurence Tecce Jr , Gulam
 Sadiq Parihar & Uzma Mohammad Sid-
 diqui, \$800,000, 25 Ridge Wy
 Spiro & Megan Pappadopoulos, Jeffrey
 Pellenz & Michael A Shotter, \$659,900, 149
 Campbell Rd
 Jonathan M & Phyllis Mutunga, Clifford
 E Leavitt Jr & Monica Leavitt, \$480,000, 67
 Meadow Ln
 Donna J K Hayes, Sara G Tellier,
 \$322,000, 32 Union St Unit 32
 Katharine Ell & Robert Morgan, Nathan
 Allen Styles & Bobbi Xayarath, \$692,500,
 240 Marbleridge Rd
 Josiah E & Carissa M Haley, Christopher
 & Melissa Obrien, \$690,000, 495 Forest St
 North Shore Real Estate Solutions LLC,
 Corinna Burkert, \$455,000, 131 Appleton St
 Marc S & Laura W Freedman, Josiah E &
 Carissa M Haley, \$795,000, 119 Kara Dr
 Matthew H & Dena L Paris, Kerry &
 Justin Elderkin, \$694,000, 36 Foss Rd
 Constance H Montuori, Matthew B &
 Julie E Hannigan, \$549,900, 100 Candle-
 stick Rd
 Jeffrey Pellenz, Mohanreddy & Pavitra
 Kasireddy, \$410,000, 67 Prescott St Unit 1
 Debra M & Donald D Stanley, Naveed &
 Jillian Ihsanullah, \$2,950,000, 58 Country
 Club Cir
 Paul M Holstein, Hirok Duffa Choudhury
 & Sudeepa Roy, \$580,000, 51 Mayflower Dr
 Unit 22
 Vincenzo & Antonietta Pintone & Antoni-
 etta & Jonathan Dean & Ashley Pintone,
 Tommaso & Domenico Merullo, \$579,900,
 32-34 Lincoln St
 Michelle M Mulvena & Thomas J
 Browne, Erica & Dennis Ouellette,
 \$436,000, 55 Harwood St
 Joanne LaVallee, Matthew Gallucci,
 \$184,000, 6C Village Green Dr Unit 5
 Paul M & Paula M Breeden , David Rin-
 aldi, \$563,000, 125 Sullivan St
 Kino & Isabel L Clark, Sohaib Ahmad
 Khan & Ayesha Sohaib, \$535,000, 10 Peter-
 son Rd
 Sara A Cope, Fred P & Elissa A Ber-
 nard Trs & Bernard Family Realty Trust,
 \$636,000, 95 Cortland Dr Unit 25
 James M Dunlea/James Martin Dunlea &
 Breda M Dunlea, Thomas F & Melinda S
 Perrone, \$428,500, 65 Meadowood Rd
 Eric R Lawson Ind Tr & Rockey Re-
 alty Trust, Osama & Mohsen Nouredine,
 \$474,000, 24-26 Lincoln St
 German & Alla Lakov, Zhao Wang & Zhi-
 hua Xiao, \$305,000, 4 Harvest Dr Unit 208E
 Richard F & Susan Jones, Michelle-Lacy
 St Cyr, \$397,000, 15 Grosvenor Ave Unit 2

BUDGET: FROM 4

- \$59,500 for the installation of a fence at the Tenney School playground in the City of Methuen, an intercom system at the Tenney School in the City of Methuen, a security checkpoint at the main entrance of the High School in the City of Methuen and 4 cameras at each of the elementary and middle schools in the City of Methuen
- \$10,500 for the Mental Health Consor- tium through the Guidance Department at the Methuen public Schools in the City of Methuen
- \$30,000 for the Pettengill House, Inc. in the Towns of Salisbury and Amesbury
- \$15,000 for ADA compliant improve- ments to the Stevens Field Playground in the Town of Merrimac
- \$250,000 to the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center for programs to in-

crease access to health care for the medi-
 cally underserved in the City of Haverhill
 for programs to develop a full-service
 community health center in Haverhill with
 collaborative, graduate-degree level pro-
 grams to train advanced practice nurses by
 Regis College

- \$300,000 to the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center, Inc., in the City of Haverhill
- \$100,000 for the Early College Program administered by Northern Essex Community College
- \$25,000 for signage and wayfinding for the economic development and revital- ization in the City of Amesbury

Senator O’Connor Ives can be reached at KATHLEEN.OCONNORIVES@ MASENATE.GOV

FAILURE: FROM 21

duty of protection is entirely on the State. It is a duty that comes with charging \$600 for a license every two years. It is manda-
 tory. The failure to do so is called ‘Failure to Protect’ and is embodied by everyone

in the State House, like José Tosado.
Dr. Bharani practiced neurology in Massachusetts until the state medical board illegally suspended his license in July 2017. scleroplex@gmail.com

HEALTH: FROM 22

progress using your smart phone or even a computer. You can wear a device like a pedometer or fitness tracker watch which may help you count daily steps, calories and minutes of physical activity on a daily basis. All these types of trackers can be good tools to keep you motivated and on track.

If you have been inactive for a long time, make sure you start slowly and see how you feel, then gradually increase how long and how often you are active - (don’t forget to check with your doctor or health professional before starting any type of exercise program). Don’t get discouraged

if you have setbacks from time to time, it’s normal. If you can’t achieve your goal the first time or can only stick to your goals for part of the week, remind yourself that this is all part of establishing new habits. Remember life is a journey, not a race, there is no finish line and you are not being timed, take it one day at a time and at your own pace.

Rick Bellanti is a wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 240lbs, and has lost 160lbs since the start of 2015. You can find Rick on Facebook at: Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti

LENNON: FROM 22

War” was in cinemas in 1967 and featured John Lennon. In 1968 he was in “The Rolling Stones Rock and Roll Circus.” The movie wasn’t released until 1996, though. John and Yoko Ono were married on March 20, 1969. John took Ono as his second middle name at this time. They started making music together and before long they had formed “The Plastic Ono Band, in 1969. They did “Live Peace In Toronto” and John went on to do, “Give Peace A Chance,” and “Cold Turkey” which was about his heroin addiction and withdrawal symptoms. He also released “Instant Karma”. They did all this in just 2 years. 1969, and 1970 were very busy for these two.

In 1970 John’s first solo album came out. It was called “John Lennon/Plastic Ono Band.” Although many critics liked it and expressed themselves clearly, there were others who thought it really wasn’t for the public so much as it was John

expressing his rejection of certain social systems and government standings on so many issues. Some of the language he used was offensive and broadcasters were already deciding not to play it. There were good points about it. One critic named Greil Marcus said, “John’s singing in the last verse of “God” may be the finest in all of rock.”

I am hoping you will enjoy this Part One enough to check out Part Two next month!! I have to stop at this point, so we can get into John’s real stuff on the next installment of “In The Groove With Cindy Annis.”

You can hear John’s music when you listen to Cindy’s Vinyl Vault. Remember, we play the best music ever recorded on vinyl. We’re at 980 WCAP Radio every Sunday night at 10:00, Monday night at 11:00 and Wednesday night at 10:00, and remember folks, it’s not how old it is, but how great it sounds!



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DEATH PENALTY: FROM 21

Relatedly, if the internal motivation is missing, there is the libertarian appeal: If you do not trust the government with lesser things, do you really trust it with life and death decisions? Especially in a post-Christian era when there is a vacuum of principles and confusion reigns under a dictatorship of relativism? Ponder that a little.



Paul Murano teaches college philosophy and theology and hosts *Beneath the Surface* radio show on WCAP. Its podcasts may be found on various cites throughout the internet. Paul has graduate degrees in philosophy and theology and is certified in health care ethics. He speaks on topics where faith and reason meet. He also plays at local venues as a solo singer-songwriter-musician. E-mail Paul at PJDM@aol.com



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PAWS II Bill Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety Approved by MA House and Senate

Boston - Legislation intended to enhance humane treatment of animals, and punish those who engage in animal cruelty, has received final legislative support following approval by the House and Senate today on Senate Bill 2646, Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety.

The legislation furthers anti-abuse measures first secured in the 2014 Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety bill. Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R- Gloucester) led lawmakers to adopt the bill, also known as the PAWS Act, following the discovery of extreme abuse and cruelty in the case of a dog that was stabbed, burned, cut and had bones broken. The "Puppy Doe" case led to the arrest and conviction of Radoslaw Czerkawski who was recently convicted of 12 counts of animal cruelty and sentenced to 8 to 10 years in prison.

"PAWS II builds on the foundations of our original law and ensures that abuse is reported and enforced, and that our animal control laws reflect the seriousness of animal abuse," said Senator Tarr. "Puppy Doe inspired me and many others to take strong legislative action to increase protections for animals and prevent animal cruelty and neglect. Animals deserve humane treatment and protections from those who would abuse them."

"This long-overdue legislation is one of the most important steps Massachusetts has taken in years to systematically protect pets and wild animals against abuse, cruelty, and mistreatment," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "As a longtime advocate for the rights of animals and those who own them responsibly, I'm proud and relieved to see this language written into law."

"This legislation furthers the Commonwealth's commitment to protecting the health, safety and well-being of animals," said State Senator Adam G. Hinds (D-Pittsfield). "Acts of animal cruelty will not be tolerated and those who commit these terrible actions should be on notice that such abuse is punishable by law."

Tarr said that in addition to lessening animal cruelty there could be a corresponding reduction of crimes against people citing a Massachusetts study which found that a person who has com-

mitted animal abuse is five times more likely to commit violence against people.

Key provisions of the animal welfare bill, Senate Bill 2646, an act to Protect Animal Welfare and Safety in Cities and Towns, include those which:

- Expand potential for abuse reports – Permits animal abuse be reported by Department of Children and Families, the Department of Elder Affairs, and Disabled Persons Protection Commission.
- Adds animal control officers as mandatory reporters of child abuse, elder abuse, and abuse against disabled persons
- Ensure efficient enforcement of animal control laws – Increases fines for violations of dog control laws up to \$500 for a fourth offence.
- Double the hit and run penalty for an accident involving dogs & cats – From \$50 to \$100 for a first offence – \$500 for subsequent offences and the cost of medical expenses, and or imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than 6 months
- Prohibit the drowning of animals – Declares that drowning of animals is a violation of law for non-licensed trappers or those registered with Fish and Wildlife
- Prohibit engaging in sexual contact with an animal
- Remove automatic killing of animals involved in animal fighting – Removes a requirement to automatically kill animals involved in animal fighting. This bill creates other options for these animal victims
- Add animal crimes to the list of offenses that serve as the basis for a request for a dangerousness hearing
- Examine options to prohibit discrimination against specific dog breeds – Requires insurance companies to collect and report data of dog related incidents
- Require abandoned animal checks in vacant properties – Property owners and landlords must check property for abandoned animals within three days following a foreclosure or termination of tenancy

Senators gave initial approval of the bill unanimously in March. The House and Senate have enacted the bill which now moves to Governor Baker for his signature.

MA Man Pleads Guilty to Sex Trafficking Women by Exploiting Their Opioid Addiction

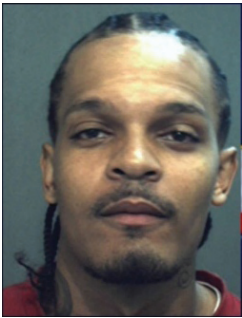
WASHINGTON – Rashad Sabree, 37, of Boston, Massachusetts, pleaded guilty today in federal court in District of Maine to two counts of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion, announced Acting Assistant Attorney General John Gore of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, U.S. Attorney Halsey B. Frank of the District of Maine, Harold H. Shaw, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Boston Division, and Peter C. Fitzhugh, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Boston.

According to court documents, the defendant coerced two young women to engage in commercial sex acts in Maine between December 2015 and Jan. 5, 2016, by exploiting their heroin addictions, verbally abusing them, and threatening them with violence. The defendant controlled the victims by supplying them with just enough heroin to avoid opiate withdrawal, which involves severe pain and physical sickness, and then threatening to cut off their supply and cause them to suffer withdrawal if they refused to engage in commercial sex. On Jan. 5, 2016, a motorist called 911 after observing the defendant striking one of the victims while driving on I-95 towards Massachusetts, resulting in the defendant's arrest.

"This defendant committed sex trafficking by exploiting the opioid addictions of these women, using their vulnerability to coerce them into commercial sex for his gain," said Acting Assistant Attorney General John Gore. "The Department of Justice will continue to work tirelessly to seek justice on behalf of victims and survivors of human trafficking."

"This case demonstrates the important role that the public can play in helping to protect those who are vulnerable," said U.S. Attorney Frank. "We encourage the public to say something if they see something. Here, thankfully, a good citizen did just that."

"This defendant preyed on the addictions of his victims and brutally exploited them in a scheme driven by cruelty and greed," said Harold H. Shaw, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Boston Division.



"With today's plea, Sabree is accepting responsibility for his crimes, while his victims continue to recover from the abuse suffered at his hands. This case demonstrates the FBI's unwavering commitment to work with our law enforcement partners to hold sex traffickers like him accountable."

"Homeland Security Investigations is proud to have assisted in this investigation, a case which clearly exposes the false claim that commercial sex trafficking is a so-called "victimless crime," said Peter C. Fitzhugh, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's HSI Boston.

"Close law enforcement coordination in this case has allowed justice to be done to the perpetrators of these vicious crimes and to, hopefully, provide some measure of compensation for the victims."

In accordance with the plea agreement, the defendant faces a sentence of 15 to 17 years in prison. He is further subject to a maximum fine of \$250,000 and mandatory restitution to the victims. Sentencing will be scheduled on a later date after the U.S. Probation Office completes its presentence investigation report.

The District of Maine is one of six districts designated through a competitive, nationwide selection process as a Phase II Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team (AC-Team), through the interagency AC-Team Initiative of the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security and Labor. AC-Teams focus on developing high-impact human trafficking investigations and prosecutions involving forced labor, international sex trafficking and sex trafficking by force, fraud or coercion through interagency collaboration among federal prosecutors and federal investigative agencies.

The case was investigated by the FBI, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's HSI Boston, and the Biddeford Police Department, with assistance from the Maine State Police and the Sanford, Kittery, and Portland Police Departments. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Julia Lipez and Trial Attorney William E. Nolan of the Civil Rights Division's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit.



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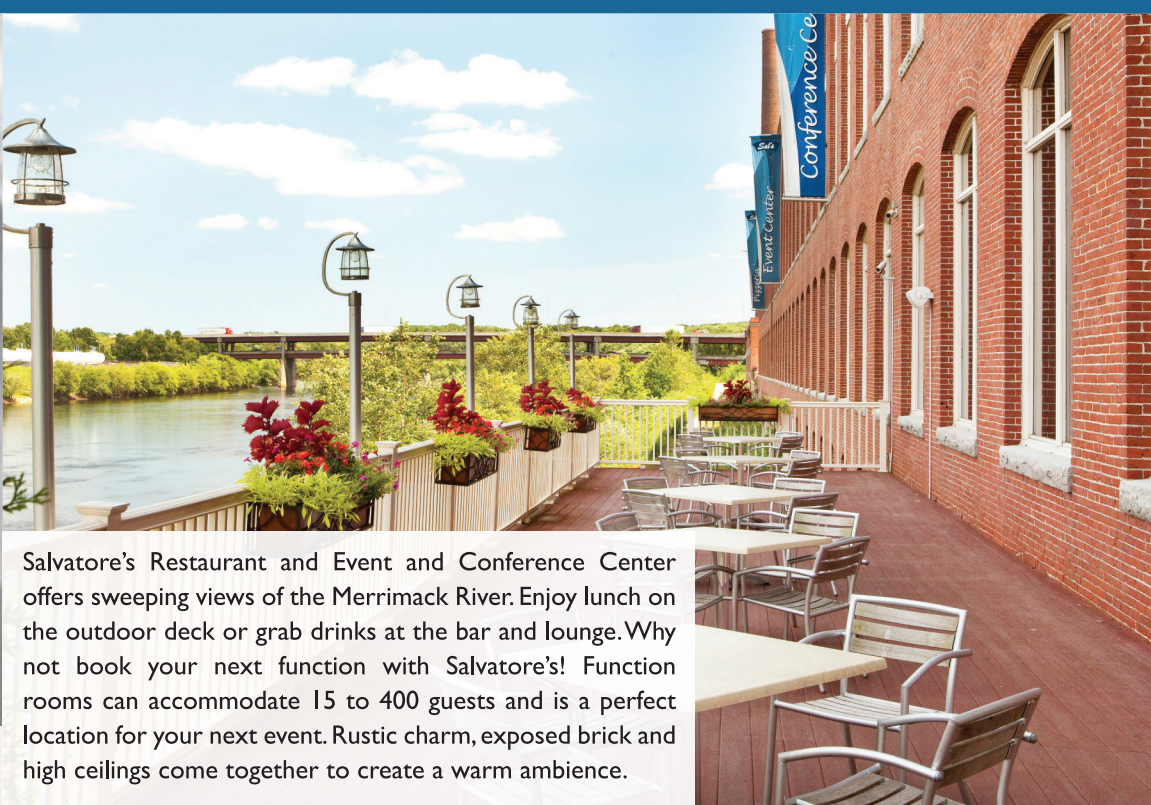


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